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REPORT

OF

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD

OF

CENTENNIAL MANAGERS,

INCLUDING

HISTORICAL ADDRESS OF GEN. A. M. WEST,

AND

LETTER FROM HON. J. F. H. CLAIBORNE,

Descriptive of the Pine Region of Mississippi.

DECEMBER, 1876.

JACKSON, MISS.
CLARION STEAM PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1877.

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STATE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

GEN. A. M. WEST, President.....*Holly Springs.*
H. W. WARREN, Vice-President.....*Carthage.*
H. M. STREET, Treasurer.....*Booneville.*
J. L. POWER, Secretary.....*Jackson.*
J. A. HOSKINS.....*Brookhaven.*
A. E. LEWIS.....*Scranton.*
W. G. PAXTON.....*Vicksburg.*
J. B. YELLOWLEY.....*Madison Station.*
FRANK BURKITT.....*Houston.*
EMIL GROSS.....*Columbus.*
JNO. R. MCLAURIN.....*Lauderdale County.*
JOSEPH BAUM.....*Meridian.*
PAUL A. BOTTO.....*Natchez.*
J. J. POWERS.....*Vicksburg.*
W. W. TROUP.....*Aberdeen.*

HON. O. C. FRENCH, of Natchez, as Principal, and COL. E. D. FROST, of McComb City, as Alternate, represented the State on the U. S. Centennial Commission.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A. M. WEST, H. M. STREET, J. L. POWER,
H. W. WARREN, W. G. PAXTON.

Superintendent Headquarters Fairmount Park:
JAMES W. LANGLEY.

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR.

JACKSON, MISS., December 30, 1876.

To His Excellency J. M. Stone, Governor of Mississippi:

SIR—I am directed by the State Board of Centennial Managers to submit to your Excellency a statement of expenditures on account of the participation of the State of Mississippi in the International Exhibition at Philadelphia. The total amount appropriated was $5,000 00, of which about $750 00 remains unexpended, and will be returned to Treasury as soon as some accounts in connection with Mississippi Headquarters are adjusted.

The exhibits from this State at the Centennial Exhibition included cotton, corn, wheat, rice, broom corn, syrup, plows, harness, cotton and woolen manufactured goods. The display of the latter, from Mississippi Mills, at Wesson, attracted much attention, and some of the fabrics were awarded the highest honors of the Exhibition. There was also a fine display of cotton yards from the Whitfield Manufacturing Company, at Corinth.

Mississippi was one of the few Southern States that erected buildings in Fairmount Park for the accommodation of visitors. What the Mississippi Building may have lacked in elegance and capacity, it made up in the material and peculiarity of its construction. Sixty-eight varieties of timber, grown chiefly in Pike and Lincoln counties, were used, and this variety could have been increased had sufficient time been allowed the contractor, Mr. Berglund, to whose skill, promptness and zeal in the matter the Board feels very much indebted. The Building was kept open during the season, and under the efficient and courteous management of Mr. Jas. W. Langley, as Superintendent, visitors were made to feel welcome. The several newspapers of the State, and some of the leading cities of the South, were kept regularly on file. Nearly thirty thousand visitors, from all the States, and many foreign countries, registered at Mississippi Headquarters during the season, and if some went off with the impression that the building was intended to show the style of architecture and the kind of homes peculiar to Mississippi, the majority expressed surprise at the variety and beauty of the timber grown in our State, as exhibited in the building, in rough and finished state. Many inquiries were made for statistics of the State, as to its agriculture, commerce, railroads, schools, price of lands, etc., and a carefully prepared pamphlet, giving information on those points, could have been distributed with great advantage to the State.

The minutes of Board, Contract for Building, and Report of Treasurer, and Centennial Address by General A. M. West on the History and Growth of the State, are herewith submitted.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, etc.,

J. L. POWER,
Secretary Board of Managers.

ACTS RELATING TO CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

AN ACT to provide for the efficient Adjustment of the Preliminaries to the Centennial Exhibition, and to Create a State Centennial Board of Managers.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi,* That the Governor shall appoint five citizens of Mississippi, who shall, in connection with the Commissioners and alternate Commissioners of this State, constitute a State Centennial Board of Managers.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the State Board to organize the State in such a manner as to secure its thorough representation in the Exhibition. They will have the care and interests of the State and citizens in matters relating to the Exhibition, to disseminate information about it, to issue invitations to participants, to receive and pronounce upon applications for space, to appropriate the space placed at its disposal among the exhibitors from this State, and to supervise such details relating to the representations of its citizens as may from time to time be delegated to it by the United States Centennial Committee.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enactod,* That after the election of one of its members as president, and one member to act as Secretary and Treasurer, they may establish an office for the transaction of their business in Jackson, or such other place as will best suit their convenience.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 6, 1874.

The General Appropriation Act, approved March 6th, 1875, includes:
For State Centennial Board, - - - - - - - - $5000 00

AN ACT to provide for the drawing and expenditure of the funds appropriated for the use of the Centennial Board.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi,* That the Auditor of Public Accounts be, and he is hereby authorized to issue his warrant in favor of the Treasurer of the State Centennial Board for the amount appropriated for the use of said Board, upon the application of its President and Treasurer, approved by the Governor; *Provided,* That requisition may be made whenever said Board is organized in conformity with the rules and regulations of the United States Centennial Commission, and in such sums, and at such time as the fund may be needed for carrying out the objects and purposes for which said Board is organized, and it shall be the duty of the President of said Board to make reports to the Governor, from time to time, of the transactions of the same; and the Treasurer shall make full report of the expenditure of the funds when called upon to do so by the Governor or the Legislature.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 6th, 1875.

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the efficient adjustment of the preliminaries to the Centennial Exhibition, and to create a Centennial Board of Managers," approved April 6th, 1874.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi,* That an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the efficient adjustment of

the preliminaries to the Centennial Exhibition, and to create a Centennial Board of Managers," approved April 6th, 1874, be and the same is hereby amended as follows: Strike out the word "Governor" in the second and third lines of section one, and insert, in lieu thereof, the words "the President *pro tem.* of the Senate," and after the word "appoint," in the third line, insert the following words: "four, and the Speaker of the House."

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That all appointments heretofore made under the provisions of the above recited Act, be and they are hereby declared null and void; *Provided,* That nothing in this Act can be so construed as to invalidate any action of said Board heretofore had in accordance with the provisions of said Act.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That all Acts and parts of Acts in conflict with this Act, be and the same are hereby repealed, and that this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

BY LIMITATION, March 13th, 1876.

A JOINT RESOLUTION in relation to the State Board of Centennial Commissioners.

WHEREAS, The number of Centennial Commissioners may be increased without additional expense; therefore

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the Governor be authorized to appoint six additional persons as members of the State Board of Centennial Commissioners, immediately after the passage of this Act.

APPROVED, April 14, 1876.

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.

JACKSON, February 11th, 1876.

Hons. C. Byrd, J. B. Yellowley and W. C. Warren, Committee House Representatives:

GENTLEMEN: Other and exacting duties have delayed attention to the matter for which your Committee was raised, to-wit: to ascertain how much of the State appropriation for Centennial purposes has been drawn, how much expended, how much on hand, etc.

By request of Hon. H. M. Street, Secretary and Treasurer of the Centennial Board, I have been acting for him, and have drawn the appropriation, disbursed what has been paid out, and conducted all correspondence pertaining to the representation of our State at the Centennial Exhibition.

The amount realized from the appropriation, including interest on the bond portion, is $5,066.00.

Of this there was disbursed, as premiums on products, implemnets, etc., at State Fair	$ 606 50
Now on hand, bonds due January 1, 1877	1,500 00
" " " " " January 1, 1878	150 00
Warrant for bond	16 66
Cash, interest on bond	66 00
Warrants, issue of 1875	2,673 34
Cash, for warrant sold at par	53 50
Total	$5,066 00

The total amount of warrants, bonds and currency unexpended ($4,459.40) is on deposit in the Capital State Bank, in this city, together with receipts for $606.50 for Centennial premiums paid.

These premiums were paid on cotton, corn, wheat, oats, rice, tobacco and other field crops, and were exhibited at the State Fair in November, by citizens residing in different portions of the State. These products have been carefully packed in neat boxes, and are now ready for shipment to Philadelphia. In addition, we will have the pleasure of forwarding a splendid variety of cotton and woolen goods from the Mississippi Mills at Wesson, a Mississippi-made gin preparing Mississippi-raised cotton for the market, several agricultural implements, vehicles and other articles of Mississippi manufacture.

At a joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Fair Association and the State Centennial Board, held last summer, it was agreed that the sum of fifteen hundred dollars of the Centennial fund should be used toward securing a creditable display of the products and industries of the State at the Centennial Exhibition; but the offering of these premiums failed to elicit that interest that was expected, and then the fund was protected by the care exercised by examining committees in declining to award premiums on articles not specially meritorious.

The Centennial Board, early in December, adopted a plan for a Headquarters Building for Mississippi in the Centennial Park. The estimated cost was $2,800 00. The building was to be constructed mainly of Mississippi timber—the idea being to exhibit in the structure the lumber chiefly used for building purposes in this State. The building was to have an office, where a registry of Mississippians should be kept, gents' and ladies'' sitting rooms, a ladies' parlor, lunch room, wash rooms, etc. The plan, however, in its exterior finish, did not meet the approval of the Director-General. Since then another plan has been adopted, at an estimated expense of two thousand dollars, equally convenient in accommodations, and more elegant and unique in exterior and general finish. This plan was prepared by Mr. Berglund, of McComb City, was adopted by the Centennial Board yesterday, and will be forwarded forthwith for the approval of the Director-General.

In view of the fact that thousands of our citizens contemplate visiting the Centennial, it is important not only to have a creditable Headquarters, but to have some one in charge of the same, who will be able to attend to the interests of the exhibitors from the State, and who will be able to give to exhibitors and visitors every possible information they may desire pertaining to the Exhibition. The State Centennial Board has agreed to forward, free of charge, to exhibitors, all articles that may be accepted for exhibition; so that, with the amount already expended, the cost of headquarters and furnishing and attending to same, the appropriation already made is hardly sufficient to enable your State Board to carry out its purposes. About $2,500 additional will be required.

The gentlemen who constitute the State Board are: A. Warner, President; H. M. Street, Secretary and Treasurer; H. W. Warren, H. Musgrove and J. S. Hamilton. Capt. M. J. Manning, of Tunica, and Capt. James A. Hoskins, of Brookhaven, hold commissions from the General Board at Philadelphia, but the others hold commissions from the Governor of this State, and constitute the Board provided for in the Act of the Legislature. Hon. O. C. French, as principal, and Col. E. D. Frost, as alternate, represent the State on the United States Centennial Commission.

In conclusion, I beg to express the hope that your committee, and the Legislature, will approve what has already been done, and what is contemplated by the Board, and that your action will give a new and strong impetus to the interest already felt, in this State, for the success of the Centennial Exhibition.

Very Respectfully,

J. L. POWER, Acting Secretary.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Gen. A. M. West, President of Mississippi State Board of Centennial Commissioners:

I have the honor to herewith transmit my report of funds received and disbursed on account of the State Board of Centennial Commissioners:

1875.	To amount of warrants received from the State appropriation		$5,000 00
No. voucher:			
1.	By amount paid B. W. McGaughey, premium on cotton	$ 150 00	
2.	Russell Sartain, premium on cotton	75 00	
3.	G. D. Sidway, premium on harness	50 00	
4.	Stuart & Kirkland, premium on plow	25 00	
5.	J. J. Weylans, premium on Syrup	20 00	
6.	Horace Hatch, premium on broom corn	15 00	
7.	Wm. Oliver, premium on cotton and woolen goods.	100 00	
8.	J. C. Culbertson, premium on rice and corn	25 00	
9.	Peyton King, premium on Corn	15 00	
10.	Thos. J. Barnes, premium on rice	10 00	
11.	Christy & Bennett, premium on wagon	100 00	
12.	H. M. Taylor, for shipping boxes	21 00	
13.	G. Berglund, for Headquarters building	1800 00	
14.	Brougher & Brown, premium on cotton press	50 00	
15.	J. L. Power, services and expenses as Secretary	150 00	
16.	Freight on articles to Philadelphia	56 05	
17.	Thos. L. Hicks, (Phila.) plumbing, etc	111 00	
18.	G. Berglund, for lumber and extra work	33 00	
19.	W. B. List, for grading and drainage	89 00	
20.	Power & Barksdale, printing and stationery	46 50	
21.	T. T. Persons, hauling	10 05	
22.	J. L. Power, telegrams and other expenses	12 55	
23.	J. M. Mitchell, (Phila.) agent, expenses	55 67	
24.	Power & Barksdale, printing and stationery	28 00	
25.	T. T. Persons, hauling	6 25	
26.	For drainage repairs, per French's draft	25 50	
27.	W. G. Paxton, for expense attending meetings of Board	20 00	
28.	Postage and exchange	2 25	
29.	J. W. Langley's expenses, railroad and hotel, for six months	385 00	
30.	For furnishing Headquarters, paying porters, and other incidental expenses, as per itemized account and vouchers	496 33	
	H. M. Street's expenses attending meetings of Board [once in McComb City, in 1875]	20 00	
	Discount on bonds and bond warrants	167 49	
	Less interest collected	66 00	101 49
	Amount paid into State Treasury	725 00	
	Amount paid O. C. French for telegraph account	12 25	
	Balance on hand for printing Report, Address of President, etc	157 61	5,000 00

H. M STREET, Treasurer.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE BOARD.

DECEMBER, 1st, 1875.

The Board discussed the matter of erecting a suitable building in Fairmount Park for Mississippi Headquarters; and it having been stated by

Col. French that plans would be submitted in a few days, it was, on motion of Mr. Street, agreed that the President, and Messrs. Musgrove, Power and Hamilton, should be a Committee fully authorized to select, from such plans as may be submitted, one suitable and within the means of the Board.

MARCH 30th, 1876.

Pursuant to Act of March 13th, 1875, the Board was this day organized. Gen. A. M. West was elected President; H. W. Warren, Vice-President; H. M. Street, Treasurer; J. L. Power, Secretary.

An Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. A. M. West, J. B. Yellowley, H. M. Street, W. G. Paxton, J. L. Power.

The Executive Committee was authorized to employ some suitable person to take charge of Mississippi Headquarters during Centennial Exhibition. Mr. James W. Langley was subsequently appointed.

JANUARY 20, 1877.

The Executive Committtee of the State Centennial Board of Mississippi met this day in the Capitol, in the room of Speaker Street.

Present: A. M. West, H. M. Street, W. G. Paxton, J. B. Yellowley, J. L. Power.

Mr. Jas. W. Langley submitted a detailed statement of disbursements by him as Superintendent of Mississippi Headquarters at Fairmount Park, amounting to $610.00. The statement being accompanied by vouchers, and having been examined by Treasurer, the same was approved.

On motion, it is the sense of the Committee that Mr. Langley be allowed his actual and necessary expenses, but no other compensation, while on duty at Mississippi Headquarters, and going to and returning from Philadelphia. The Treasurer and Secretary were appointed a committee to settle with him.

The application of Mr. Tazwell Jones for additional compensation as porter was presented, and the same committee was instructed to settle with him upon the basis of the contract heretofore made with him, and pay to any balance that may be due him.

The Committee unanimously resolved, that no part of the expenses of the Commissioners in attending the International Exhibition should be paid out of the appropriation made by the Legislature.

Mr. Street, Treasurer, reported that $2,934.32 had been expended, and that $1,356 was in his hands, and that after paying all demands, there would be about $750.00 to pay into State Treasury.

On motion of Mr. Paxton, the thanks of the Committee were tendered to Mr. H. R. Mitchell, of Philadelphia, for the many favors rendered by him in securing the entry of articles for exhibition and in the withdrawal of same at the close.

Mr. Langley stated that 3,800 Mississippians had registered at Headquarters during the Exhibition.

The thanks of the Committee were tendered Mr. Langley for his efficient and faithful discharge of the trust confided to him.

The Secretary and Treasurer were directed to prepare their reports and accounts, and hand the same to the Chairman of the Committee to accompany his report to the Governor.

On motion, Gen. West was requested to file with the Secretary, a copy of the address delivered by him at the Centennial, in which is so fully and eloquently set forth the history, resources and productive capacities of our State, and that the same is regarded as an essential feature of the part taken by Mississippi in the great World's Fair. It is the sense of the Committee that a document requiring such great research in its preparation, and abounding in so much valuable information, should not only be preserved, but extensively circulated.

On motion of Mr. Yellowley, the Treasurer was directed, after paying

all demands on account of the Exhibition, to pay over the unexpended balance to State Treasurer, and take his receipt for the same.

The Committee then adjourned *sine die*.

J. L. POWER, Secretary.

CONTRACT FOR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this 13th day of March, A. D. 1876, between James A. Hoskins and O. C. French, a committee appointed by, and representing the State Centennial Board of Mississippi, of the first part, and G. Berglund, President of the Southern Industrial Works at McComb City, Miss., of the second part, *Witnesseth*: That said Berglund agrees, in consideration of the covenants and stipulations hereinafter mentioned, to erect a building for the use of the State of Mississippi, and to be under the management and control of the State Centennial Board, at Philadelphia, upon the grounds set apart for that purpose in Fairmount Park; said building to be of size, thirty by forty feet, one story high, with attic room, and to be of such style and finish as set forth in the drawings, plans and specications furnished the said State Board by said Berglund, and which are now on file in the office of A. T. Goshorn, Director-General of the United States Centennial Commission in Philadelphia, and which are made a part of this agreement and referred to in a letter of said Director General, to "J L. Power, acting Secretary, Mississippi Board," and dated Philadelphia, February 26th, 1876, and filed in the office of the Secretary of the State Centennial Board. Said building to be constructed of timber and woods grown in this State, and to be built and finished in good substantial and workmanlike manner. Said Berglund agrees to pay all expense of preparing said building, transporting it to Philadelphia and erecting it upon the grounds set apart for that purpose in Fairmount Park, the same to be completed and turned over to the State Board, or such person or persons as they may designate to receive it, not later than the 5th day of May, 1876; said Berglund to have full management and control of said building, until said 5th day of May, 1876, but is to grant full privilege to said State Board or such person as they may designate to perfect the gas and water arangements in the same. Said Berglund agrees to enter into good and approved bond in the sum of two thousand dollars for the faithful performance of the foregoing agreements on his part.

In consideration of the foregoing, the said James A. Hoskins and O. C. French, for the State Centennial Board, agree to draw orders on the Treasurer of the State Board as follows: First order to be for eight hundred dollars, and to be drawn when all the material is shipped by said Berglund, to Philadelphia; second order for five hundred dollars, and to be drawn when said material for said building is delivered upon the grounds in Fairmount Park, and the third order for one thousand dollars, when said building is completed and received by the State Board or their representatives, making in all two thousand three hunered dollars, which is to be payment in full for said building. It is made a part of this agreement, however, that the State Board may retain five hundred dollars from the last order, and give instead their obligation to surrender to Mr. Berglund, said building at the close of the Centennial Exhibition, they, the Board, holding the option as to whether they do so, or pay the full amount of twenty-three hundred dollars; all payments to be made in United States currency or its equivelent in exchange.

JAMES A. HOSKINS, [L. S.]
O. C. FRENCH, [L. S.]
G. BERGLUND. [L. S.]

NOTE.—The Board surrendered the building to Mr. Berglund, thus making the total cost $1,800 instead of $2,300.

ACCEPTANCE OF PLAN OF BUILDING.

UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
PHILADELPHIA, February, 26th, 1876.

J. L. Power, Acting Secretary Mississippi Board, Jackson.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., transmitting drawings for the Headquarters Building for your State. I am pleased to approve of the plan, and as soon as a survey can be made of the location that has been assigned, tracings of the same will be forwarded to you. I shall endeavor to give you as good a location as it is possible at this late hour. We are very much crowded in the Park for space.

Yours, very respectfully,
A. T. GOSHORN,
Director General.

ALLOTMENT OF SPACE FOR BUILDING.

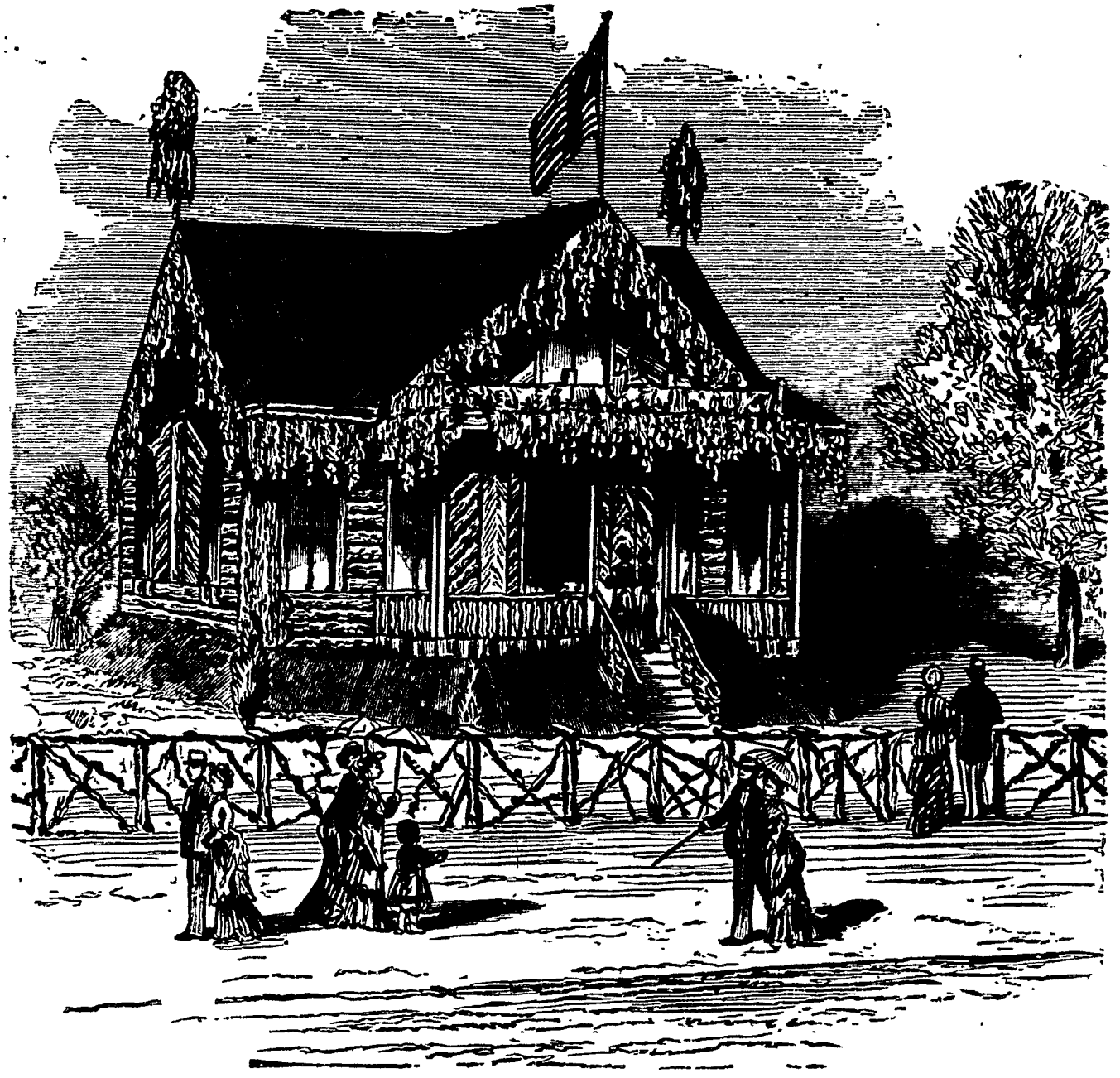
UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION,
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
PHILADELPHIA, March 17th, 1876.

Application No. 7656.

HON. O. C. FRENCH, *U. S. Commissioner for Mississippi:*

The following described lot of ground has been allotted to the State of Mississippi in Fairmount Park, within the enclosure of the International Exhibition, to-wit: West of Japanese Grounds, on west side of walk leading from State Avenue to the Avenue of Republic, beginning at a point 120 feet south of the State Avenue, thence at right angles with walk leading from State Avenue to Avenue of Republic 90 feet, to a point; thence 118 feet to State Avenue, said line being at right angles with State Avenue; thence along State Avenue 120 feet to place of beginning, containing 11,710 square feet, more or less,—for the purpose of erecting thereon a building to be used as offices and headquarters for the State of Mississippi. * * *

A. T. GOSHORN, Director-General.



KINDS OF WOODS USED IN MISSISSIPPI BUILDING.

White Oak,
Post Oak,
Water Oak,
Pin Oak,
Red Oak,
Spanish Oak,
Chestnut Oak,
Cherry,
Mulberry,
Holly,
Sycamore,
Cotton Wood,
Box Wood,
Service Tree,
Paw Paw,
Red Bud,
Red Elm,
Slippery Elm,
Birch,
Sassafras,
Wild Plum,
Dog Wood,
Pine,
Cedar,
Cypress,
White Ash,
White Hickory,
Water Willow,
Black Gum,
Sweet Gum,
Poplar,
Iron Wood,
Hop Tree,
Sweet Bay,
Sugar Maple,
White Maple.
Beach, two kinds,
Apple,
Black Haw,
Chincapin,
Crape Myrtle,
Shumack, two kinds,
Pear tree,
China Wood,
Huckleberry,
Peach tree,
Laurel,
Black Locust,
Sour Wood,
Prickly Ash,
Water Pine,
Magnolia,
Red Haw,

55 different kinds—42 finished, 40 in the rough. [There were in fact, 68 varieties in the building.]

[From Correspondence Vicksburg Herald.]

PHILADELPHIA, May 30, 1876.

Having just alluded to Mississippi Headquarters, I might as well say without more ado that no State building on the grounds begins to receive as much attention. It is in the Swiss style of architecture, and by long odds the most attractive and picturesque structure to be seen anywhere within the enclosure. The house is built to simulate a hickory log-cabin, with the logs running diagonally, and the interior is beautifully pannelled with varnished pine. For the exterior finishing, various kinds of native timbers have been used, and in the whole establishment there are sixty-eight different varieties of Mississippi woods, including forty-nine varieties that are displayed on two panels on the wall of the front piazza. From every available projection hang sweeping festoons of Spanish moss, and the appearance of the edifice is peculiarly striking, without being at all outre. Mr. J. W. Langley, the courteous Superintendent, has certainly found no sinecure, for he is constantly besieged by sight-seekers, among whom the fair sex largely predominate. He is greatly assisted, however, by Tazwell Jones, the colored attendant. Although Tazwell answers some ten thousand questions a day, he is still serene as a huckle-berry bush.

Mississippians will have cause to rejoice and be proud of this institution. There are four rooms down stairs, which average about 14x14, and they will be arranged as a reading-room, ladies' sitting-room, and ladies' dressing-room. On the female side, there will soon be a splended Chickering piano. All these departments are being tastefully furnished and carpeted —the latter portions of the decorations having been just presented by Colonel Ned Richardson. The architect was Mr. G. Berglund, of McComb City.

REGISTERED VISITORS AT HEADQUARTERS.

From 10th May to 27th July	9,880
" 27th July to 28th September	11,470
" 28th September to October 15th	6,440
Total	27,790

Of which number, 3,800 were citizens of Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI EXHIBITS AT CENTENNIAL.

Bale of Cotton, by B. W. McGaughey, Lee county.
Bale of Cotton, by Russell Sartain, of Yalobusha county.
Cotton and Woolen Fabrics, Mississippi Mills, Copiah county.
Yarns, made from Seed Cotton—Whitfield Manufacturing Company, Corinth.
Corn—Peyton King, Lafayette county; and J. C. Culbertson, Rankin county.
Rice—J. C. Culbertson and T. J. Barnes, Rankin county.
Broom Corn—Horace Hatch, Hinds county.
Syrup—J. J. Weylans, Copiah county.
Tobacco—R. T. Hart, McComb City.
Plow—Stuart and Kirkland, Jackson.
Harness—G. D. Sidway, Jackson.
Timber—Mississippi Valley Improvement Company, as exhibited in Mississippi Building—55 varieties.

AWARDS.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,
Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1877.

The United States Centennial Commission has examined the report of the Judges, and accepted the following reasons, and decreed an award in conformity therewith:

Product—Collective Exhibit.

Exhibitor—The State of Mississippi.

The undersigned having examined the product herein described, respectfully recommends the same to the United States Centennial Commission for Award, for the following, reasons, viz:

For its Building, containing sixty-eight different varieties of woods and of native moss. Also for the peculiar design of the building, which shows on the outside the woods of the State, with the bark, and on the inside the woods finished and oiled.

C. JUHLIN DAMFELT, Judge.

Approved by
J. A. JOHNSON,
E. OLDENDORFF,
T. E. SICKELS,
T. W. TALLMADGE,
} Group of Judges.

A true copy of the record.

THOMAS A. WALKER,
Chief of the Bureau of Awards.

Given by authority of the United States Centennial Commision.

A. T. GOSHORN, Director-General.
J. R. HAWLEY, President.
{SEAL.} J. L. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

OFFICE OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS,
Wesson, Miss.

Col. J. L. Power, Secretary:

In reply to your favor, beg to state that our awards for exhibits at Centennial are:

Diploma, for best Doeskin and Cassimere Jeans.

Diploma, for best Cottonades, Checks and Osnaburgs, Plaids.

Medal, for both.

The awards were in favor of our Woolen Goods because of the *superior quality of material used in their manufacture*, and honest make, and durability, evidenced by their strength, finding no shoddy or extract material in their manufacture.

Awards were made in favor of our Cottonades, Checks, Plaids and Osnaburgs, because of their superior quality and the strength of the goods, as compared with other exhibits of same class of goods.

Yours very truly, WM. OLIVER.

GROUP 8, No. 69—Whitfield Manufacturing Company, Corinth, Miss.

Cotton Yarns—Report: Cotton Yarns, of excellent quality, produced directly from seed cotton, without the use of the ordinary gin, by an equivalent apparatus attached to the card. Awarded a Medal of Honor and Diploma of Merit.

CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI.

Col. J. L. Power:

Above find copy of award on yarns at Centennial which were made by the Clements Attachment, or new method of converting seed cotton directly into yarns. I am under obligations to you for suggesting the sending of the yarns to compete with the products of the whole world. I did so under many and great disadvantages. The cotton was picked in January and bought of a negro on the 20th of February. The machinery—only four pieces—was very old, having been used nearly twenty years. My operatives were unskilled, none having been a factory over four months. My spinners were two little girls under 12 and 13 years, and I knew at that time but little about manufacturing cotton. * * * * * *

I have devoted the last three or four years to the perfecting of Clements' Machine; have taken out four additional patents, and am now trying to bring it prominently before our people, but my progress has been slow, for want of means, the great opposition and bitter enmity of middle men, the impoverished condition of our section of country, the exceeding hard times, the prejudice of old manufacturers, and the old habits or customs of our Southern people—wedded to the production of cotton, and cotton only. These are great obstacles for a single individual, of limited means, to overcome, but with the assistance of a Divine Providence I hope to do so. New Process Mills are now in operation in Memphis, Corinth, Andersonville, S. C., and others are building in Newbern, N. C., one near Charlotte, N. C., another in South Carolina, one mill to be changed near Atlanta, Ga., one to be put up this fall in New Orleans, one in Simpson county, Miss., one at Dallas, Texas, and I hope one at Pine Bluff, Ark., Weatherford, Texas, and some few other places.

That you may form some idea of the merits of the New Method, I send you a paper containing two communications on cotton manufacturing; also two others, one: "Facts about Cotton—important to the South;" the other: "The Manufacturing and Producing of 1000 bales of Cotton, contrasted." I hope, after perusal of these, you will realize the importance of this work, and the absolute necessity of its adoption by our people, which, with a diversification of agriculture, the development of our mineral resources, utilizing our water power, and building up still other industries, giving to our indigent women and children suitable employment, will make our impoverished South not only once more independent, but the garden spot of the world. Respectfully,

F. E. WHITFIELD, SR.

HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI,

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, PHILADELPHIA, JULY 10TH, 1876, UPON THE

Growth and History of the State of Mississippi.

BY GENERAL A. M. WEST,

OF HOLLY SPRINGS.

I am honored by being chosen to speak for, and in the name of the State of Mississippi, on this occasion of the "National Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Independence of the United States."

I rejoice to meet here the representatives of the several component parts of our Nationality, and with them to contemplate with patriotic pride and admiration the men who were present at the birth of the Nation, and the events that transpired in this city on that memorable occasion, with their consequences. It is, also, a pleasure with them to welcome the representatives of other nations, coming hither from the four quarters of civilization, with the evidences of their material resources, prosperity, inventions and discoveries in the arts and sciences and their improvements in the many elements of wealth, which, with ours, are now being exhibited to millions of the inhabitants of the world. These, we trust, may be preserved and exhibited, in some intelligent form, to succeeding generations as the existing visible evidences of an advanced and an advancing civilization, throughout all countries. This vast assemblage of human beings, and the varied products of many nations, now before us, demonstrates that all States and Nations may learn and practice the lessons of peace and fraternity, and vie with other for the promotion of their mutual prosperity and welfare. They also demonstrate the existence of a Supreme, overruling Providence, and at the same time forcibly present to our view the means of extending civilization and of harmonizing the sentiment of mankind with the unity of races, and the universality of the primary laws of our being and material prosperity.

We behold, with profound admiration, the grandeur and far-reaching importance of this National Centennial occasion. Never before, in the history of human events, did the nations of the earth meet, through their chosen representatives, to participate in the celebration of the birth-period of one of their family, by exhibiting their varied productions of forest and field, mine and factory. History, however, has seldom, if ever before, been able to designate with certainty, and define accurately, the beginning and character of a great national existence, whose organic law was the result of unrestrained liberty, forethought and profound deliberation, illuminated by an intelligence founded

upon religion, morality and patriotism, ignoring all personal ambition to mature a perfect form of government, and adapt it, in all its parts, to the necessities of the people, and transmit the same to posterity as a valuable legacy, worthy of its support. This government, suited to the whole country—North, and South, East and West—has come to us as a bequest of our fathers, who always "breathed a spirit of sympathy in suffering, and invited a spirit of union in resistance." We should imitate their example, and with hearts overflowing with gratitude, renew our allegiance and fraternity as States and individuals, and resolve to transmit this inheritance, unimpaired, to future generations, stamped with our conviction, that a trial of hundred years has proven it the embodiment of human wisdom, whose principles are as enduring as the necessities of civil government, alike applicable to all civilized people, and elastic enough for all ages.

The object of inviting to our shores the representatives and messengers of many nations is two-fold. It is to witness the celebration of the hundredth birthday of our nation, and also afford the various nations the opportunity to display to the world the evidence of their progress in science, art and industrial skill. We do not, therefore, propose to extol, by comparison, our own institutions, or to decry, in any manner, those of our assembled guests, but with some confidence, invite them to see and to hear what one branch of the great human family has achieved, under its peculiar civil and religious policy in the course of one hundred years, and draw their own conclusions. Those institutions founded or established in this city a century ago, had some very simple but fundamental principles. Among these is that of self-government by the people, which, when practicable, is the best. Accordingly, the founders of our civil institutions left the ultimate sovereignty in the people, giving administrative power to a government composed of representatives chosen by the people. In matters of religion, they adopted the principle of absolute freedom as to thought, profession and practice. It is to mankind to see and judge for themselves how far the working out these ideas has tended to increase the happiness and prosperity of the people who have lived under it. This magnificent cluster of great commonwealths, stretching across the continent and filling up the space between the two great oceans on the east and the west, speak in a language which everybody understands. We, however, do not enter as competitors with our guests on these matters; doubtless they are equally well satisfied, and on equally well-founded reasons, with their own institutions. Let it be sufficient for mankind that this young giant is enlisted in the common cause of humanity. In the matter of government and religion, the human family recognize no universal standard of comparison. Rivalries and contests often injure rather than benefit mankind. Time holds in his hand both the test and the prize, and we must await his decision. There is, however, in reference to the arts and industries of mankind, an acknowledged standard, and science and literature are of no nation. These live by comparison, and contest and rivalry in these benefit all who engage in them, whether enemies or friends. These exhibitions add to the stock of universal ideas which are daily increasing in number and grasp. They soften our prejudices, subdue our antipathies, and beget that spirit of toleration which expands into universal sympathy.

Looking on these products of human skill and invention, as they come from nations diversified by climate, race, religion and government, we discern through them the peculiar genius of each, and learn that excellence, beauty and skill are found everywhere, though in unequal measure; that while there are certain universal laws alike applicable to all, and that as no people are altogether good, and none are altogether bad, the best government can only nourish, while the worst government cannot altogether extinguish the universal inherent desire of man to improve himself and benefit others—to produce something good and excellent—to render back

in some form the gifts with which the God of Nature has endowed them. We can here see, in these varied treasures of labor and art, the great springs, the fountain which fills the veins of the commerce of the world—that great civilizer and liberalizer and liberalizing instructor of mankind—and realize in this knowledge that the diversities which we see, lie at the foundation of human intercourse, and it may be of human happiness.

One cannot view this extraordinary spectacle and contemplate the assured consequences which will flow from bringing the various branches of the human family nearer to each other—the dissemination of ideas, the correction of errors, and the softening of prejudices—without a profound conviction that though these World's Fairs may have had their origin in adventitious circumstances, Providence, under whatever name it may be recognized, beneficially shapes their consequences.

But it is not for me to dwell upon the general subject. I am commissioned to discuss the history and the growth of the State of Mississippi, in wealth, population, etc., embracing agricultural, manufacturing, mineral and other statistics. The State of Mississippi and her political institutions are the legitimate fruits of the Declaration of Independence, but she has no revolutionary history, except as affected by the result of the war of Independence. So much of her territory as was possessed by the white people, was colonized by France in 1669, ceded by France to England in 1763, at which time England also acquired the Spanish possessions in Florida in exchange for Cuba; it remained British territory until 1779, just four years before the close of the war of independence, when war breaking out between England and Spain, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana made a conquest of it; among the last, if not the very last, conquest made by that once vast and splendid monarchy, so that at the close of the revolutionary war it was actually a Spanish province, under Spanish rulers. In 1763, England obtained the French possessions east of the Mississippi river and the Spanish title to Florida; they divided the territory thus acquired unto East and West Florida at the 31st parallel of North latitude; but, ascertaining afterwards that the French possessions extended north of that line, and included Natchez and some other settlements north of it, by proclamation the boundary of West Florida was extended to a line drawn eastward from the mouth of the Yazoo river. In the treaty of 1783, by which England acknowledged the independence of the United States, the Southern boundary of the United States was acknowledged to be the 31st parallel of north latitude. England then ceded back to Spain East and West Florida. Spain insisted that the northern boundary of West Florida extended to the mouth of the Yazoo river, and that this territory formed no part of any State of the United States, and maintained her occupancy until 1795, when, by treaty, she relinquished her claim to any territory north of the 31st parallel. 1798, the Congress of the United States created the territory of Mississippi; the northern boundary was a line drawn due east from the mouth of the Yazoo river to the Chattahoochie river; its southern boundary was the 31st parallel of north latitude. This excluded that portion of the State lying upon the gulf, then owned by Spain, and that portion which lies between the then northern boundary and the State of Tennessee. Georgia claimed, under charter from the British crown, the whole of the south of Tennessee and north of 31st parallel; and her claim was admitted by the United States. When Spain wrested from England in 1779, that part of the territory which the latter had obtained from France, the Congress of the United States notified the Spanish authorities that it was part of the State of Georgia, and therefore territory of the United States. In 1802, Georgia ceded all the territory now comprising the States of Alabama and Mississippi, to the United States, except that portion which was held by Spain, south of the 31st parallel. In 1762, France had ceded Louisiana to Spain, but having in 1803, obtained its retrocession, sold it

to the United States. This Louisiana must not be confounded with the present State of that name. It included the island of Orleans, the city of New Orleans, and the mouth of Mississippi river; and, as afterwards asserted by the United States, all territory of Florida west of the Perdido river, and embraced all the territory west of the Mississippi, not included in the limits of Mexico, from the mouth of the Mississippi to its source, and out of which has sprung those rich and prosperous commonwealths west of the Mississippi. The United States having thus obtained Spain's title to Louisiana, claimed that it was Louisiana as it was when ceded by France to Spain, and by Spain to France; and that it embraced the territory of West Florida, and in 1811, dispossessed Spain of it. By acts of Congress of 1804 and 1812, all the territory which includes the States of Mississippi and Alabama, as they now exist, was embraced in the Mississippi territory. This gave to Mississippi all that part of her territory which lies on the Gulf of Mexico between the Alabama and Louisiana boundaries, with Ship Island, Horn Island, Cat Island, and several other smaller islands. In 1817, the people of the western part of the Mississippi territory were authorized, by Act of Congress, to form a constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States. A Constitution and a State Government were formed upon the expressed fundamental basis, that "religion, morality and knowledge are necessary to good government, preservation of liberty and happiness of mankind, and schools and the means of education would forever be encouraged," and the State was admitted, and the government set in motion by a process so marvelously simple that it excited in the minds of foreigners unmingled astonishment.

Achille Murat, son of the famous Joæquine Murat, resided in Florida when that Territory underwent the transformation into a State. He wrote and published some essays on American institutions, in one of which he described the wonderful proceeding in Florida. I think he said it was made into a State, with its Constitution and all its apportionment of offices, officers and laws, complete and in working order in five days. Some facts very curious to him he mentioned—that some of the laws passed were obscure, some contradictory, and all, as it seemed to him, very crude; but they had an institution, or something of the character of law called the "common law" which the people brought with them into the Territory, although coming from many different States. This common law settled all strife, like the "Ægis of Minerva"; reconciled all contradictions, dispelled every obscurity and supplied every deficiency.

The people of the Mississippi Territory had their training under an ordinance, founded upon these great principles of government—the ordinance of 1787, for the government of the Northwestern Territory. It gave the common law with some needful modifications. It may be well to observe here, that so much of the ordinance of 1787 as prohited slavery, was so modified as simply to prohibit the importation of slaves from foreign countries into the Territory. The Territory of Mississippi was first known to history as having been traversed by Hernando DeSoto, in 1541, and we have a county which bears the name of that heroic but ill-fated adventurer. The French first became acquainted with it in 1682, through explorers from Canada, who descended the Mississippi to its mouth. The first colony or settlement was made by Iberville in 1699. He landed at Ship Island, and afterwards planted his colony on the Bay of Biloxi. In 1716, a colony was planted at Natchez by Bienville; and in 1718 another on the Yazoo river, and in 1721 a colony was located on Pascagoula Bay. It was soon ascertained that the precious metals were not to be found in the Territory, hence some attention was given to productive agriculture as the means of trade and commerce; they, however, made slow progress; those at Biloxi and Pascagoula, because the soil was not, in its natural state, adapted to

profitable agriculture, and those in the Natchez and Yazoo settlements, because of their frequent conflicts with the Indians.

In the history of these settlements we find all the features which mark other like settlements on this continent: a perpetual state of war, night surprises, conflagrations, massacres and captivity; closing with the extinction, dispersion or transportation of Indian tribes, of whom no trace remains, except a few hundred scattered over the State, and the euphonious and poetic names designating our streams, and which have been bestowed on some of our counties and towns. There seems to be something like the force of destiny, in the spirit which impelled the Indians to continue to war upon a more powerful people. The whites could not recognize a title to territory in roving tribes whose claim consisted in "seeing it from a hill, or passing over it in the chase." The Indian everywhere, with rare exceptions, has viewed the approach of civilization with invincible repugnance and "indigestible disgust." Its light is seemingly too strong for their moral perceptions.

Of the numerous Mississippi tribes we can only trace, with certainty, the history of three, and they were the most powerful—the Choctaws, the Chickasaws and the Natchez. The last named tribe, the "Sun Worshipers," were the most civilized, and yet the most warlike and unmanageable. They, in 1729 and 1730, destroyed utterly the settlements in the Natchez districts, and were afterwards dispersed, pursued, slain or transported. The Chickasaws formed an alliance with the English colonies of the Carolinas, and were, in some sort protected by the English. The Choctaws on the other hand, allied themselves to the French, and were protected by them. These powerful tribes remained in Mississippi until, by treaty with the United States, they consented to remove beyond the Mississippi river, where they are now settled in fixed habitation, and living under civil government, like our own; furnishing another illustration of the wisdom of our laws, and the benign influences of our government. What became of the Biloxies, the Pascagoulas, the Yazoos, the Tensas, and the other tribes, is matter of conjecture; it is probable they were absorbed by the larger tribes, or crossed over to the west of the Mississippi river, and settled on lands given them by the French. When the English occupation began in 1763, Indian wars had ceased in the Territory. The Choctaws were the most numerous tribe; and, in contact with the settlements, the English made with them a treaty of limits.

From the time of the English occupation, the colonies began to show signs of progress; thus again showing the adaptability of our political institutions to the improvement and the necessities of mankind.

The French settlers were joined by immigrants from the British American Colonies. There was now, among the people, a greater sense of security, which had a salutary effect on their industrial pursuits. In 1829, the State extended its jurisdiction and laws over the Indians and their territory, abolished the Tribal government, conferred upon them citizenship, and validated all marriages which had been made according to their Tribal rules.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, there were not more than eighty families in the Natchez district, and these declined to take part in the struggle. Many were retired British officers, and all held their land from the British Crown. They, however, cordially acquiesced in the result, which placed them under the flag of a free and independent country. During the Spanish occupation, the English settlers revolted. There were about fifty men engaged in the Rebellion, but enough to possess themselves of the Fort at Natchez. The Spaniards, however, having taken Mobile and Pascagoula, the then seat of Government of the territory, the rebellion died out. A rebellion, something of a like character, occurred after the peace of 1783, springing from the impatience to get rid of the Spanish author-

ities, although the Spanish rule appears to have been mild, thus showing that they had caught the spirit of revolt from the American colonies. After the treaty of 1795 with Spain, the Spanish authorities in the territory manifested an active unwillingness to give up their forts, and surrender the territory, as stipulated in the treaty. They refused to permit the free navigation of the Mississippi river, and actually arrested vessels while descending the river, thus producing much discontent in Kentucky and the West. The Spanish authorities conceived the idea that owing to this discontent, and the necessity to the West, for the unrestricted navigation of the river, and the apparent failure of the Government of the United States to secure these important advantages for them, the Western people would, with judicious encouragement, detach themselves from the United States, and make common cause with Spain, and thereby enable her (Spain) to successfully disregard her treaty stipulations. There does not, however, seem to have been any just foundation for this belief. The French, after trying Frenchmen and Germans, as agricultural laborers, introduced African slavery into the Mississippi Territory, where it continued to exist as a legal institution, until the close of the late civil war. In 1785, the population of the Natchez district amounted to fifteen hundred and fifty persons. A garrison of sixy soldiers were maintained at Fort Pormare, at an annual expense of six thousand five hundred dollars. In 1788, the population was 2,679, an increase of 1,129 in about three years. In 1775, Indian corn, wheat, oats, rye, rice, potatoes, cotton, flax, tobacco, indigo, buckwheat, barley and peas, with other things, were almost universally cultivated, but rarely, if at all, for exportation. When the country came under the dominion of Spain, a market was opened in New Orleans; a trade in tobacco was established, and a fixed and remunerative price was paid for it, delivered at the King's warehouses. Tobacco thus became the first marketable production of Mississippi. Indigo succeeded tobacco, and cotton, which was cultivated as a garden plant at Natchez as far back as 1722, succeeded indigo in 1790, which, up to the present day, has maintained itself against all competition. The invention of the Cotton Gin, by Mr. Whitney, in 1792, gave a mighty impulse to its production, and, by its successful use, inaugurated a new era in agriculture, mechanic arts, manufactures and commerce, adding countless millions to the wealth of nations.

Mississippi Territory was three times owned by individuals: In 1630, it was granted by Charles I, of Great Britain, to Sir Robert Heath. In 1637, Heath transferred his grant to Lord Maltravers, and subsequently it became the property of a Dr. Daniel Coxe, of the province of New Jersey; and in 1799, the same year that the French established themselves at Biloxi, under Iberville, his title was recognized, and reported upon as valid, by the Attorney General of King William. And, lastly, it was the property of the State of Georgia, and, as before stated, was ceded by that State to the United States in 1802. As previously stated, "the Mississippi Territorial Government was organized by act of Congress, of April 7, 1798.—Congress, however, reserved the right to divide it into two districts, with separate governments. Winthrop Sargent, was its first Governor, and by proclamation, dated April 2, 1799, divided the Territory into two counties." The 4th of June, 1800, he created an additional county. The first session of the Legislature of the Territory was held at Natchez, January 22, 1799. In 1802, two more counties were created.

A session of the Legislature was held at the town of Washington, November 4, 1811. There were, then, nine counties in the Territory. The sum of $31,845 46½ had been collected for taxes; and of that, $17,911 43¾ had been disbursed. There were then only about 1,719 free-holders residing in the Territory. A second session of the Legislature met at the town of Washington, November, 1812. David Holmes was then Governor. In

his message, he commended the people of the Territory for their prompt response to the call of the United States for troops, in her war with Great Britian. Other calls were made by the President of the United States, and by Major General Andrew Jackson, and were responded to with equal alacrity. There was received into the Territorial Treasury, from taxes in 1814, $26,681 00. The taxes were deemed oppressive by those who paid them. The disbursements amounted to $16,501 00.

By authority of the United States, a convention from the Western part of the Mississippi Territory met at Washington, July, 1817. There were then fourteen counties, and they were represented by forty-seven members. A State Constitution was adopted, and the State named Mississippi. The first Legislature under this constitution met at Washington, and on the 9th of October, 1817, elected Walter Leake and Thos. H. Williams United States Senators. There was received into the Treasury in 1717, $45,836; and there was disbursed, $37,506. There was in the Treasury when the State government was inaugurated, $8,259 00. January 21, 1818, Wm. B. Shields, Jno. Taylor, Jno. P. Hampton and Powhattan Ellis, were elected first Judges, and Lyman Harding the first Attorney-General, under the State Constitution. In January, 1820, the Legislature met at Natchez. The receipts into the Treasury were $45,000; the disbursements $39,000. In 1821, the Legislature met at Columbia; there were then 19 counties. The whole vote of the State now amounting to 6197. The first code of laws was revised and consolidated by Geo. Poindexter, in 1824. Thos. Hinds, Jas. Patton, and Wm. Lattimore, were appointed Commissioners to locate two sections of land donated to the State, by the United States, for a seat of Government for the State. The location was made; the place named Jackson, in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson, and in 1822, the Legislature met there. Governor Leake, in his message to the Legislature, congratulating the country upon the "number, dimensions and style of the buildings erected in the town of Jackson, which, six months before, was entirely in the woods, in the midst of a wilderness, the former abode of untutored savages." The vote of the State in 1825 was over 9000.

The receipts into the Treasury were $77,925: the disbursements, $41,475. The tax assessment for the next year aggregated $77,925; the disbursements, $41,475. The vote of 1827 was 10,872. In 1830, the assessments were $64-604; disbursements, $64,949. In 1831 the people voted to revise their State Constitution. This year the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Departments cost $39,023. The counties had been increased to 26. The Convention, to revise and amend the State Constitution, met at Jackson, September, 1832, and after adopting a new Constitution, adjourned the following October. Jno. A. Quitman, David Dickson, J. T. Trotter, Geo. Brandon, Daniel Greenlief, and other distinguished men were members of this Convention. The first Legislature, under the new Constitution, met at Jackson, January, 1833. The net proceeds of the cotton crop of this year were $11-316,000. The counties in 1835, had been increased to 43; since then, they have been increased to 73. In 1835 the assessment of the land amounted to $4,488,702; money at interest, $566,801. In 1838, there were raised in the State about 580,000 bales of cotton, and the next year 482, 825 bales; in 1840, 482,825 bales; in 1850, 484,292 bales; in 1860, 1,202,507 bales; in 1870, 564,938 bales. In 1839, the production of corn amounted to 13,161,-331 bushels. Since then, its production has been regulated by the necessities of the State. There were received in the State Treasury in 1838, $157,-198,41, and the following year about the same amount. From 1850 to 1860 the progress in prosperity and wealth is illustrated by the cotton crops, which, during that time, increased from 484,292 bales to 1,202,507 bales. In 1861, the civil war began and lasted four years. Slavery was abolished, and the habits of the people, the industries and the productions of the State were materially changed, and in some instances, entirely revolution-

ized. The population of the Territory and the State, at each census, was :: in 1800, 8,860; in 1810, 40,352; in 1820, 75,448; in 1830, 136,621; in 1840, 275,621; in 1850, 606,526; in 1860, 791,305; in 1870, 817,922, which entitles her to six representatives in the United States Congress. Owing to the four years of war, and the abolition of slavery, the increase of population during the last decade was much less than formerly. From the same cause, the real and personal property of the State was greatly reduced; in 1860, they amounted to $509,472,912; its present value not more than one-half of this valuation. There are in the State 6,838 free public schools, and 2,275 school buildings. There are 318,459 educable children, between the ages of 5 and 21 years; there are 168,217 actually in school. There is one University endowed by a grant of land by the United States, with a past average attendance of about 200 pupils. There are 19 colleges and academies, with 82 professors and teachers, and 915 pupils. There are schools for the blind, deaf and dumb, and various private school enterprises scattered over the State. There is a commodious Lunatic Asylum, supported by the State. The State House and Governor's Mansion will compare in size and architectural beauty with those of other States. The buildings of the Penitentiary were destroyed during the war, and have been only partially rebuilt.

There are now published in Mississippi, 111 newspapers, with a circulation of 72,000. There are, in the State, 665 Baptist organizations; 652 Baptist edifices; 174,970 Baptist sittings. There are 787 Methodist organizations; 776 Methodist edifices; 208,203 Methodist sittings. There are 262 Presbyterian organizations; 258 Presbyterian edifices, and 71,100 Presbyterian sittings. There are 33 Episcopal organizations; 33 Episcopal edifices, and 7,325 sittings. 2 Congregational organizations, ten edifices, 2,450 sittings. There are 32 Catholic organizations, 9 chapels, numerous stations, 22 priests in parishes, 4 priests otherwise employed; one Literary Institution for young men; one male Orphan Asylum; 5 Female Academies and one Orphanage; 11 Parochial Free Schools; 5 Clerical Students; 130 Orphans, and 12,000 Catholic population.

Owing to the mildness of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and some crops growing at all seasons for the subsistence of animal life, there is less pauperage in Mississippi, in proportion to population, than there is in any of the other States. Certain localities are proverbial for good health and longevity, which is shown by the letter of Hon. J. F. H. Claiborne, to which I will presently refer.

"The area of Mississippi is 47,156 square miles, equal to 30,179,840 acres," and lies between latitudes 30 degrees ten minutes, and 35 degrees north, and longitude 11 degrees 10 minutes, and 14 degrees 34 minutes west from Washington, 88 degrees 12 minutes west from Greenwich.

Every portion of the State is well watered; clear running streams penetrates it in every direction, and its rivers are numerous, "with broad alluvial bottom lands." The northern portion of the State has a rolling surface, and is beautifully wooded, the lands producing very abundantly. The valley lands are, however, much more productive and durable. There is a large section of prairie land lying on the eastern border of the State, and extending through many counties. The soil is dark, heavy loam, and of surpassing fertility; is deeply impregnated with lime, and producing cotton, grains and grasses to great perfection. Commencing some fifty miles below the mouth of the Yazoo river, inclining to the interior for about one hundred miles, in a line gently circling upon through the centre, thence diverging northwest to State line, is as noble a sweep of country as any to be found. The facilities for market are unequalled. The soil is of a most productive character. There are no mountains within the State; yet numerous ranges of hills of moderate elevation, give to the greater part of the surface an undulating and diversified character.

The southwest, and country above, is the oldest settled portion of the State; the soil is rich, and the population (before the war) wealthy. The land of south and southeast Mississippi is mixed—poor and medium, and some very rich, and all well suited to stock-raising and fruit-growing; indeed it possesses many of the pleasant characteristics of a pastoral country. That portion bordering on the Gulf shore, with its bathing, mineral waters, fish and oysters, and delicious fruits, and pleasant summer retreats, is becoming to the South what Cape May and Long Branch are to the North. Back from the sea coast it is generally covered by pine trees, which are now being used for lumber and naval stores. For a full description of this most delightful country, I refer you to the very able and eloquent letter of Hon. J. F. H. Claiborne. In describing one particular locality, and its mineral waters, he says: "The position is at once beautiful and commanding. A rippling bay, dotted with verdant islets, and looming out into the 'deep blue sea,' 'far as the breeze can bear the billows foam.' In the back ground stands the great pine forest of Mississippi—those evergreen Titans, that have braved the battle and the storm for ages, and now fling their hoary shadows, and distil their balsamic dews over this charming shore. A crystal river, fringed with verdure, winds like a thread of silver around the village and gigantic live-oaks, that no elemental strife can shake, gracefully stoop to kiss the sparkling waters. The prospect and the air are invigorating, and the invalid finds these powerful adjuvants to the elixir of the springs.

"The exhaustive analysis made by Dr. Jones, the distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the University of Louisiana, established the great value and specific action of the waters in a great variety of diseases." The great forest of long-leaf pines covers more than one-third of the area of the State. It covers a large district east and west of Pearl river extending to the Gulf. This vast forest, taking into view the quality and uses of the wood, the inexhaustible supply, the great height and size of the tree, is an enormous store of undeveloped wealth. There is no other such pine forest to be found in the world. As far back as 1753, France supplied her navy with masts and spars from this forest. No where else could trees of such size and height be obtained. This immense forest is penetrated by numerous water courses, which are capable of floating the timber to the Gulf coast, from a distance of 60 to 100 miles. It stands next to coal for fuel, in factories and machine shops; yields turpentine more abundantly than any other species of the pine, and is the material most in use for building houses and railroads.

The other grand division of the State is known as the Valley of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers, and is 170 miles long and 50 wide, containing about 700 square miles; reduced to acres, aggregate about four millions. Of this there is in cultivation about four hundred thousand acres. These lands are of the richest alluvial deposits, of wonderful fertility, with an immense forest of valuable timber, of almost endless variety in quality and size. The cypress, which reaches a great height, with a straight stem of giant size, and often without a knot or limb to the height of sixty feet. For building and commercial uses, these trees are of incalculable value.

Mississippi has been most munificiently provided with the marls necessary to restoring fertility to her exhausted lands. These marls are found in many different localities of the State and in rich abundance. "Dr. Edmonds, who was connected with the agricultural department of the New York Survey, made an analysis of some of our marls sent him for that purpose, and in giving the results in his 'Quarterly Journal of Agriculture,' published at Albany, he remarks: 'that from these examinations, it would appear that the South is really rich in fertilizers, and that there is no necessity for her lands becoming poor and barren;' and one of the specimens analyzed, he adds that it will be found a valuable fertilizer, as it contains

almost half the amount of potash which the green sands of New Jersey do, that are so remarkable for giving fertility to the exhausted lands of that State." In 1847, Col. J. M. Wesson, of Georgia, organized a company for manufacturing cotton and woolen goods, corn-meal, and flour, and located, the same year, in Mississippi, and commenced operations in 1848. This enterprise was eminently successful. It commenced with a capital of $50,000, and within a few years increased the same to $300,000. It was destroyed by the Federal army in 1864. Col. Wesson, encouraged by previous success, located, after the war, in a vast pine forest, named the place "Wesson," and entered at once upon the erection of suitable factory buildings, which he soon furnished with machinery and put into operation. These mills were destroyed by fire, and were then rebuilt by Mr. E. Richardson, the present owner. There are now in operation, nine thousand spindles for cotton and woolen goods; six sets of woolen machinery; one hundred looms for manufacturing woolen fabrics, including a great variety of doe-skins, cassimeres, jeans, lindseys and tweeds, ranging in price from 25 cents to $1 00 per yard. "There are 234 looms for manufacturing cotton goods, including brown sheeting and shirtings, osnaburgs and drilling, bed-ticking, hickory stripes, plaids, ginghams, cottonades and checks, and cotton wraps; both sewing-threads and knitting yarns are, also, manufactured to a very large extent. Five hundred persons are employed, and appear to be healthy and happy. Quite a large town is growing up around the mills. There is a demand for all the goods they can make, and they are unable to keep up with orders for several styles. Large sales are made in the Western States and in New York, and what is better, it has a large local and home patronage; thus demonstrating that cotton can be more economically manufactured in the immediate vicinity of its production than elsewhere.

The confidence begot by these successes, has organized, and is organizing itself into various enterprises in the State, for manufacturing almost every article of domestic use. Forest timber; the productions of the fields, gardens, and orchards; steam and water; the cotton-gin, flouring mills; the spindles, looms, and machinery; labor, skill, enterprise and capital, are being rapidly brought into convenient proximity to each other, and, at the same time, near to great natural and artificial highways of trade, travel and commerce; practically recognizing the superior agricultural, horticultural, pastoral and manufacturing advantages of Mississippi. Cotton, sugar, molasses Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, peas, vegetables, grapes, berries, rice, oranges, bannannas, peaches, pears, quinces, apples, cherries, plums and other fruits; wool, beef, hides, pork, sweet and Irish potatoes; clover, timothy, herds, orchard, bermuda, and other grasses, grow in luxuriant abundance. Her lands, as has been shown, are fertile and well watered and timbered, with a vast forest of great commercial value. These lands are varied by hills, valleys, plains, swamps and prairies. The alluvial lands of Mississippi and Yazoo bottoms, are surpassingly rich; and, when protected by levees from overflow of water, and reclaimed by drainage, and subjected to enlightened agriculture, will produce not less than two millions of bales of cotton annually, and three millions bushels of corn; worth at present prices, $120,000,000.

The climate of Mississippi is that "happy medium," where the products of the North and South meet, grow and mature in harmony with the necessities, and many of the luxuries of life. No country is more regularly irrigated by rain-falls, or better supplied with aqueous vapor than Mississippi. The moisture and humidity so necessary to the life and growth of vegetation, are borne from the warm bosom of the Gulf stream, and from her various rivers, and diffused throughout her borders; her lands are so varied in their physical formation, location, and production, as to suit all classes and conditions of society. These lands are now cheap; ranging from government

price, to from $1 00 to $3 00 per acre; value being regulated by improvements, location, quality and quantity. The labor of the State is sufficient for all agricultural purposes, and by reason of its long experience, and thorough identification with the climate and soil, it is the best in the world. There is, also, a large class of its population suited to the labor of the factories.

The chief staple production of Mississippi is cotton; now aggregating an average, annually, of near 700,000 bales. She can, by a judicious system of farming, raise all of her necessaries and some of her luxuries, and at the same time, produce as much cotton as she now produces, and increase the same in proportion to the increase of population which shall be employed in its production. Cotton has a market anywhere and everywhere, and always commands money. It is not like tobacco and the cereals, subject to damage and decay. It has worked a greater revolution in the world's history than any other article of commerce. It is, at the present day, the chief commercial item of most civilized nations; and, it is believed, will continue to be so for ages. The crop of Mississippi, in 1874, amounted to about $30,000,000; which, with each crop added for twenty years, without increased production, will aggregate $600,000,000. Add to this each year, the usual rate of interest, and her wealth would, within that time, become almost fabulous. This not only shows the productive capacity of the State, and the value of cotton to the producer, but illustrates what individuals may, by the cultivation of her soil, and by the practice of economy accomplish for themselves.

To present a more impressive view of the immense value of cotton, I will state, that the cotton crop of the United States, for the same year, amounted to about $200,000,000. A proportioned production for the next twenty years, would amount to $4,000,000,000; nearly twice the amount of our national debt. Besides, the oil obtainable from the cotton seed by the mechanical means now in use, the lint and the oil cake can be made to aggregate at least $50,000,000 annually; and about $14,000,000 from the cotton seed raised in Mississippi. This can be increased two-fold, as has been ascertained by chemical manipulation, and will be, when its value and uses become more generally known.

Mississippi is bounded on the south by the Gulf of Mexico; on the west by the Mississippi river. The Tennessee river touches her on the north, near which the Tombigbee rises, and flowing southward, traverses her eastern border. Numerous other navigable streams are in the interior of the State. There are four railroads which pass through her entire borders—north, south, east, and west—connecting, in several places, with the Mississippi river and the Gulf of Mexico, and with the entire railroad systems of the United States. There are numerous other railroads in the State, and connected with these or with the navigable streams. She is the eastern base of that vast region of boundless resources, resting upon the Gulf of Mexico, and lying between the Rocky and Alleghany Mountains, known as the Great West, whose streams of water form the Mississippi river, which, in its sweep on its majestic way into the Gulf of Mexico, laves the entire western border of Mississippi. The flow of these waters are the indices of the natural direction of travel, trade and commerce, and ever-active elements of civilization and lasting friendship. The railroads, bearing the same relations artificially that the Mississippi does, naturally, to the physical geography of the country through which they pass, must, therefore, act in unison, and as funnels; concentrating the rich products of the great West upon the Gulf for exportation to foreign markets; and as those who sell must buy, they will be exchanged for a corresponding amount of importation. Mississippi also possesses one of the finest harbors in the United States. This fact appears from actual surveys, but by some strange neglect, it has never been made available for extensive shipping. These nu-

merous natural and artificial advantages, enlarged by the completion of the railroad from Texas to the Pacific Ocean; the successful improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi river; the connection of Ship Island with our present system of railroads by the construction of a railroad northward, through the interior of the State; the reclamation of the overflowed and alluvial lands; the establishment of direct trade with Europe, and more intimate commercial relations with Mexico and Cuba and the other West India islands, and all South America; the opening of a ship canal across the Isthmus, thereby shortening the distance, and lessening the dangers of the voyage to Japan, China and the East Indies.

The execution of these measures will give to Mississippi a prosperity hitherto unknown—the commerce of this continent will be revolutionized, and not only her agricultural and manufacturing independence established on a permanent footing, but her commercial also; converting a forest of pines into the finest of marts, with the flags of many nations peacefully displayed in her own harbors, the bordering counties covered with flocks and herds, and with manufacturing villages teeming with an intelligent and thrifty population; such is, we believe, her destiny and the future of this country. I am persuaded that a careful study of the laws of trade, and the history of commerce, in connection with the physical, material, social and political identifications of this State with the great valley of the Mississippi river, and the formation and political condition of the other countries referred to, with the changes and wonderful developments now going on in the world, will lead others to the same conclusion. With these vast fields of enterprise, and inspired by such important coming events, Mississippi cannot be idle, but must, of necessity, join in the march of enterprise and improvement, which, now, like the waves of the ocean, are moving in every direction, and pouring upon the globe a grand luminous array of the triumphs of mind over matter, as is so forcibly exemplified by this Centennial Exhibition; and by the rapidity with which the productions of human labor and skill are transported from farm to farm, from factory to factory, from city to city, from ocean to ocean, from country to country, exhibiting, to the amazement of the world, an activity in all of the industrial pursuits of life, commensurate with man's capabilities. It is a noteworthy fact that, although the late war left more than one-half the population of Mississippi homeless and penniless, and the remainder greatly improverished, and all without credit, and frenzied by political conflicts, and social disturbances, society was rapidly reorganized, domestic and social economy restored, and personal credit re-established. Their commercial obligations, in this and other cities have been more promptly met the past season than have been the obligations of the people of many of the other States. As these sudden and rapid changes effecting, as they did, society in all its varied, social, domestic and political relations, are unprecedented in the history of communities and nations, impartial judges must conclude that the resources of Mississippi are extraordinarily great, and historians must give to both white and colored races credit for marvelous capacity for adaptation to circumstances, and for unparalleled recuperative powers.

During the late civil war, Mississippi was devastated and scourged by contending armies, and paralyzed by military dominance; as, also, by the consequent corruption and lawlessness that followed the close of the war. But the people, with high resolve, irrespective of party, race or color, rose in the majesty of their power to suppress lawlessness, and rescue their State from the vortex of ruin, and restore to it the prerogatives of government, law and order. She is now redeemed, and all radiant with the glory of the achievement,—"stronger by exertion, more virtuous by her afflictions, wiser by experience," and more national in sentiment; and, having reorganized her political and domestic institutions, in accordance with the

amended Constitution of the United States, and in harmony with that new phase of civilization which marks this as the beginning of a new epoch in her history, she has, by the amazing industry, energy and self-denial of her people, partially recovered from the devastations of the late civil war of four years duration. Astonishing must be the effects produced by the combined influences of so many happy causes of restored civil government with a hopeful prospect of a long continued peace, fertile lands, varied productions, rivers and seas, railroads and factories, Christian churches, numerous charitable and benevolent societies, schools, and the means of education; good health in two-thirds of the State, with a salubrious climate and balmy air—that inspires genius in the young, hope in the invalid, and joy in the aged. The arts and sciences, in intellectual culture, and whatever of prosperity and wealth may be expected to follow these manifold advantages and blessings, will, in the march of events, flourish in manly maturity, and must, from the very nature of things, be generally diffused among the people; and as power and influence cannot be long separated from wealth and intelligence, thereby establishing, upon a durable basis, that political equality and those well-balanced influences so necessary to good government and the perpetuity of free institutions. We most cordially invite the worthy inhabitants of the several States, and foreign countries, to come and unite their fortunes with ours, and share these blessings with us, and, under their benign influences, go on to the accomplishment of all the grand objects of peace and progression.

Three hundred and thirty-five years ago, when the Mississippi Territory was the home of the Indian, "and the unbroken forest stood in its primeval grandeur, untrodden by any other than the Red man's foot, the first European appeared upon the soil in the person of the renowned Spanish explorer, Hernando DeSoto." One hundred and thirty-eight years afterward, an unsuccessful attempt was made to establish a colony on her soil; one hundred and seventy-seven years ago a settlement was effected near Biloxi; seventy-eight years agone, the Mississippi Territorial Government was formally established;—its limits comprised that vast domain now covered by the States of Alabama and Mississippi. Fifty-nine years ago, a Constitutional Government was established over the western part of this Territory, leaving the eastern part "in the form, and by the title of the Territory of Alabama" During these generations and centuries, "events of vast moment have occurred;" the territory and State having passed through scenes of alternate prosperity and adversity, war and peace. After having been held successfully by the three most powerful Monarchies of Europe, and several individuals; and after nineteen years of territorial pupilage, Mississippi became one of the States of the American Union; and under the quickening sway of Constitutional Government, bounded forward in a career of great intellectual and moral improvement, and material prosperity—always attracting, by her charms, men of genius and enterprise from other States; and by her topographical scenery, climate, production, rivers and seas, giving to and fostering in her children the many ennobling qualities of mind and heart. To-day, she meets with her sister States, feeling reverence for her seniors and consideration for her juniors, and with them stand *pares in paribus* upon this proud eminence of one hundred years, to survey with patriotic ardor their past history—their growth and prosperity in all the elements of greatness, and, with them, to contemplate the future of a country so boundless in resources and omnipotently powerful among the nations of the earth.

Whatever may have been the constituents of the Mississippi Colony at the close of the Revolutionary War, the people who, as a State, entered the American Union in 1817, were of the genuine revolutionary stock. In the war of 1812, they had flocked to the standard of General Jackson, and contributed largely to his victory at New Orleans; and with equal ardor their

descendants followed the banners of the Union, under Generals Scott and Taylor in the war with Mexico. So long as patriotism and heroic actions are honored among men, the gallant men who so distinguished themselves in these two wars, will not be forgotten, but gratefully remembered for their military service in the cause of a common country. The people of Mississippi now, with undiminished gratitude and reverence, cherish the memory of those who participated in the ever memorable events which these ceremonies are designed to recall. Who, indeed, can contemplate it, and its vast and beneficent consequences to the human family, as they have, in the course of a hundred years unfolded themselves, without being filled with pride and admiration? We see the steady march and growth of a free people, with freedom of thought, of industry, and complete religious toleration. Indeed, the largest liberty, going hand in hand with law and order; increasing, expanding and developing until, at last, they present to mankind a magnificent spectacle of human happiness, power and prosperity, which, like ancient Greece, has "unfolded every form of genius, wandered through every field of fancy, extracted sweetness from every blossom of nature, and adapted their harmonious numbers to every tone of melody, from the thunders of the warlike Muse to the melting accents of the lyre." These are the great results of the pledge of "the lives and the fortunes and the sacred honor" of our fathers one hundred years ago in this city; and the evidences of their wisdom, patriotism and genius, which are so grandly illustrated by the emblem of our nationality, with its bright constellation of States, proclaiming that sectionalism should be lost in the great ocean of a common destiny. That their names may be emblazoned forever upon the pages of American history, and their deeds and memories honored and cherished by a grateful posterity throughout countless ages, and the coming and going of generations, and the Union of these States, under that form of Constitutional Government which they conceived, and, by their statesmanship, constructed, "remain one and inseparable, now, and forever," is the prayer of the people of the State of Mississippi.

THE PINE DISTRICTS OF MISSISSIPPI.

[Appendix to General West's Address.]

LETTER FROM HON. J. F. H. CLAIBORNE, TO GENERAL A. M. WEST.

My Dear General: When we speak of the "Pine Woods," or the "Sea Coast," people associate with it poverty, and an interminable waste of sand and barren lands. This impression is certainly erroneous. I know of no country that holds out more inducements for capital, industry, and intelligent husbandry; that combines so much health and comfort with so many avenues to competence and opulence.

THE SEA COAST.

The sea coast of Mississippi is not low and swampy, but a high, bold bluff, margined at its base by a beach of pure white sand, and supporting

on its brow a forest of stately pine, live-oak and magnolia. The soil is a light, sandy, vegetable loam, by no means unproductive; easily cultivated, and, by proper treatment, yielding for a long series of years, abundant crops of vegetables and fruit, remarkable for their flavor. Pure and cool water is here everywhere obtained at the depth of from ten to twenty feet. The country for two or three miles back is much the same, but then it begins to undulate; there is more clay in the soil; the timber becomes almost exclusively pine, and is of heavier and larger growth. Twenty miles back, the country is higher; in some localities quite hilly, but with broad surfaces of table lands of good arable soil, intersected by bold, clear, never-failing streams, affording fine water power; and the great forest of yellow pine stretches, northward and eastward, from Pearl river to the Leaf and the Chickasahay, and thence to Alabama.

THIS GREAT FOREST,

Is drained by Pearl and Pascagoula rivers, and their numerous tributaries, furnishing navigation and facilities for rafting timber from the remote interior. On these streams may be seen a heavy growth of white oak, hickory, poplar, ash, beech, water oak, maple, hackberry, elm, gum, dog-wood, sassafaras, cherry, mulberry, chesnut, box-elder, white bay, red bay, cedar, juniper and cypress of colossal growth. The lands are classed as first and second bottoms, with natural drains, and usually covered with a rich growth of cane, and grape vines. With proper treatment they yield from twenty-five to fifty bushels of corn, and from one thousand to fifteen hundred pounds of seed cotton to the acre. Rice, potatoes, sugar cane and tobacco, are, on such lands, all remunerative crops.

THE GREAT WANT

of this country is a railroad, with proper feeders, to lift this mighty forest, and bring it, as it were, to the lap of the ocean. For a hundred miles at a stretch, at any point of the compass, one may ride through these ancient woods, and see them, as they have stood for ages, untouched by the hand of man. A railroad could be cheaply constructed. For 150 miles or more, the country may be described as an inclined plane, sloping to the sea; the rivers and streams all flowing in that direction. No mountain to tunnel, no rocks to excavate or blast. The surface is dry and solid; the materials for construction at hand, and the very best. Consider the wealth coined out of the pine forests of North Carolina, with her stormy cape, forbidding egress from her ports; and the labor and capital expended in the frozen pineries of Maine, and on all the still bleaker shores of the Northwestern lakes! Here we have a field for enterprise far more extensive—a virgin forest—a benign climate—a coast exempt from storms—capacious harbors—with access to all the markets in the world! A railroad would develop these great resources, and build up an important commercial *entrepot* on our beautiful sea coast.

MARSH OR MEADOW LAND.

Every river, or salt-water creek, debouching into Mississippi Sound, has, on one or both banks, a margin of marsh or prairie, from fifty yards to a mile deep, overflowed by high tides, but usually firm enough for cattle to pasture on the grass and pea vines that grow with great luxuriance. I sent specimens of these marsh soils for analysis to Prof. Riddell and Prof. Forshey, of the University of Louisiana, and to Prof. Jackson, of Harvard. Prof. Hillgard, formerly State Geologist, personally examined these marshes. They found carbonate of lime, potash, phosphorus, vegetable organic matter, and other elements of fertility in abundance.

FOR FERTILIZING

this marsh mud or muck may be carried out, broad-casted, and immediately plowed in, or be thrown into a compost heap, and manipulated with lime

or animal droppings during the winter, or may be tramped in the barn-yard or cow-pens and poultry-yards, with pine straw, or the long grass and reeds of the marsh. On the margin of these marshes, often on the sea-shore, and at numerous points on the rivers, bayous and creeks, there are extensive deposits of oyster, clam and muscle shells, readily convertible into the best lime for agricultural uses. Then the pine straw—the leaves from swamps and hammocks—the sediment from ponds and sloughs—the debris from numerous charcoal pits—sea-weed thrown up by the waves—and the offal of fish—supply abundant means of ameliorating land; and in the interior pine country, there are valuable marl beds and limestone.

DAIRY FARMS.

When we see what leveeing, ditching and pumping have achieved in Holland, in the fens of England, in our own country, and in other quarters, we may expect some day to find these great natural meadows converted into hayfields and pastures, the home of a thrifty people. They consist of alluvium based on sand and clay; an artificial, but exhaustless soil. The grass, of several varieties, grows rank and coarse, but actual experiment has demonstrated that, the more it is grazed and mowed, the more tender and succulent it becomes. The late Mr. George, of Grand Coquille, in the Rigolets, shipped fifty bales of this hay to New Orleans, which could only be sold for litter, it was so rough, but he persevered and in two or three years he brought his hay up to the standard of the Western article. Besides, other grasses might be introduced to supercede the native grasses. The Bermuda grass, set out in tufts, or cut up and plowed in, soon carpets our uplands, and covers with its rich verdure even the naked sand.

FRUITS—ORANGE CULTURE.

Southeastern Mississippi produces a great variety of fruit. The peach, apple, plum, pomegranite, pear and fig; pecan, grapes of many varieties, strawberries, dewberries, blackberries, the persimmon, mulberry and pawpaw, or custard fruit, and melons of various kinds, grow in great perfection and yield abundant returns. Nearer the seashore we find, in addition, the orange, lemon, citron, shaddock, jujube, almond, bananna, olive and occasionally the pine-apple. With proper attention and study of the acclimating capabilities of most valuable roots and fibrous-leaved plants and textiles, might be plants most of the tropical fruits, and many of the successfully cultivated here. The orange is just now attracting much attention. The tree is propagated from the seed—by grafting on the wild or sour orange-stock—by suckers or scions—or by cutting off and replanting the tap root. If practicable, it would be well to plant the seed where the tree is to stand. From nursery beds, the orange is transplanted at one or two years old. Shallow planting and horizontal roots are recommended. The tree is tenacious of life, and may be removed when ten or twelve years, old. I have seen bifurcated trees sawed apart, when ten years old, and transplanted, each section growing and fruiting. When the roots of the orange tree run on or near the surface, the tree becomes hardier and fruits earlier. The theory of planting this tree, in my opinion, is never *to dig a hole for it.* Plant shallow, and support with stakes, until it throws out lateral roots to support itself. The excision of the tap root is a mooted question. As an accessory to shallow planting, I cut the tap roots, replant them, and in due time get from these a second crop of plants for setting out, quite as good as the first. The best locality, it is thought, is near the water, or salt marsh, with the protection of the forest on the North. On the high bluffs of our salt water bayous, the orange flourishes, and we have trees on this coast, in full bearing, sixty years old, and with no symptoms of decay. Trees planted in the open pine woods do well, and suffer less than elsewhere

from cold. This tree is more affected by sudden changes of temperature than by intense cold. After a long, warm spell, which has started the sap and an unexpected freeze occurs, is the period of danger; and the point should be to retard the flow of sap. The orange, like most other plants, may be trained to endure cold weather. I prefer to give my trees a northern exposure. They flourish on almost any soil. A little ashes, oyster shell lime, marsh mud, and an occasional mulching is all they require. They may be planted about twenty feet apart, and the orchard can be cropped with peas, potatoes, melons or vegetables. They will fruit in four, five and six years—the grafted fruiting earlier; are subject to few diseases; are very long lived; require less attention than any other fruit tree, and will average, when in full bearing, 1,000 oranges to the tree. The demand is unlimited. The oranges on the coast are pronounced superior in flavor to any in the market. $10 00 per thousand, at the orchard, is about the average value.

WINE MAKING.

Wine making bids fair to become one of the industries of the pine-woods counties. The Concord, several varieties of Ives' Seedlings, some of the table grapes of France, succeed well; but the renowned Scuppernong is our peculiar boast. It requires no particular care—little or no pruning. Plant your vine; treat it with its favorite food—a little bone-dust ashes, charcoal, vegetable mould, and sweepings from a blacksmith shop—provide two or three cart loads of light-wood posts and rails—and *let her rip!* She will run as long as you will put down the posts, and in a few years will cover half an acre of ground. It is a hardy bearer; seldom rots; hangs on the vine until it shrivels, and has no superior as a wine grape. Mr. Alfred V. Davis, of Pass Christion, a capitalist, and a man of great energy and cultivation, has eighty acres of the Scuppernong, and has made, and is making first-class still and sparkling wines, on an extensive scale. Col. A. E. Lewis, of Jackson county, and other sea-coast gentlemen, are successfully pursuing the same enterprise. It requires capital to manufacture wine to compete with the foreign article; a man of limited means may profitably grow grapes to dispose of to the manufacturer, and there is no interest that may be more profitably followed.

STAPLE CROPS.

Sea Island or long staple cotton is a safe crop on this coast, anywhere within the influence of the salt air from the sea. It rates in the market quite as well as that grown in South Corolina. Yield, about 800 lbs. of seed cotton to the acre—more or less, according to land, culture and season. Tobacco, from Florida or Cuba seed, has been tested, and, in careful hands, would be a paying crop. A large area of land here is specially favorable to its culture. Sugar-cane succeeds admirably, and is a reliable and remunerative industry. Rice, so far, is grown exclusively on uplands, and only for domestic use. Its culture might be profitably extended. Sweet potatoes have been made to yield 500 bushels to the acre. Two crops of Irish potatoes are grown on the same land; the first planting in January, the second in August. Indigo, broom-corn, the sorghums, and the castor-oil bean, have all been successfully planted.

CHARCOAL AND WOOD.

This is an extensive and paying business on the sea-board. The coal is burned near some navigable bayou, and delivered to schooners at 12½, 16 to 18 cents a barrel. Workingmen, steadily pursuing this business, become independent. Hard wood is worth, on the bank, $2 50 per cord; light wood, $2 00; baker's pine, $1 50. Our salt water bayous are numerous, running back generally 10 to 15 miles, affording plenty of water and furnishing almost every neighborhood with shipping privileges.

MILL LOGS.

The steam saw and planing mills on this coast are numerous and on a costly and extensive scale. They pay cash for all the logs that can be delivered; the price generally remunerative, but, of course, varying with the dimensions of the timber and the state of the market.

SAND AND SHELLS.

The former for building purposes, the latter for streets and roads, employ many persons and vessels profitably.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

This business employs many persons, but might be greatly extended. A chain of islands, you perceive from the map, extends from the mouth of the Mississippi to Mobile, lying fifteen or twenty miles from the main land. These, with the mud banks along the shore, and the bars at the mouths of our rivers and creeks, constitute the fishing grounds. Red fish, black fish, red snappers, pompano, Spanish mackerel, speckled trout, sheepshead, flounders, mullet, croakers, etc., are very abundant. These are taken to the New Orleans market and to the various villages along the sea board. Oysters of superior quality are found within a few miles of the whole coast. Many of these are sent by rail to the interior, but the business of canning oysters, crabs and shrimp, and of salting and drying fish, has not yet been introduced. It offers an inviting field for enterprise and capital. The planting of oyster beds would pay well, and is specially recommended to the enterprising.

SHIP BUILDING.

From our list of timber, and the facilities furnished by our mills, and the demands of the coasting trade, there have sprung up here numerous ship yards, where very handsome, staunch and clipper vessels are turned out. Good ship carpenters, calkers, painters, blacksmiths and riggers are always in demand, and the vessels they fit out command good prices on sale or charter, to carry lumber, hard wood, shingles, staves, hoop poles, tar, turpentine, rosin, shells, sand, hides and peltries, live stock, poultry, etc., to New Orleans.

NAVAL STORES.

Previous to the war, these were profitably produced in this quarter. Our pines run as freely as they do in North Carolina, and handsome returns were realized. There is no reason why the business should not be resumed.

MARKET GARDENING AND POULTRY.

With the facilities offered by the New Orleans and Mobile Railroad, we might, on our warm, friable, loamy soil, take lead in the early supply of vegetables and fruit for the New Orleans and up-country markets. With proper attention, we may be ten days or a fortnight in advance of riparian planters, and it is well known that fruits and vegetables grown on dry, sandy soils are of superior flavor. This coast should supply St. Louis and Chicago, and the West generally, with okra, egg plants, tomatoes, peas, beans, cauliflowers and potatoes, pears, figs, peaches, apples, strawberries and melons, and can do so ahead of those who plant on alluvial soils.

No country in the world where poultry thrives better, and with very rough treatment. It is a business which, if pursued as *a business* with all that the term implies, would yield very large profits. I do not hesitate to say that any person investing a hundred or a thousand dollars in poultry raising, and bringing to it the proper knowledge and care, would double his money every two years.

CATTLE AND SHEEP.

Both good investment. Our summer range in pine lands cannot be excelled. And in winter the cane and reed brakes on the rivers and creeks,

and the marsh grasses furnish sufficient food. Cattle are rarely ever fed. During the summer and fall, and when running on cane in winter, they make excellent beef, readily sold at a handsome profit, for the coast market, and to the New Orleans butchers.

The whole district, embracing ten or fifteen counties, is admirably adapted for sheep. It is full of the shrubs and undergrowth that sheep delight to crop. The surface is gently undulating, the summer grass never fails; the ravines abound with reeds, rushes, and switch-cane, that furnish nutritious food and warm shelter all winter. Why should not wool growing be more profitable than at the North? It has been often demonstrated that Southern fleeces are as fine and as heavy as the fleeces of colder climates, and sheep more healthy. Mr. Cockrill, of Mississippi, successfully competed with the most famous wool growers of Saxony, France and England. In New York or Vermont the breeder must own or rent every acre of land his flocks tread upon, and sheep require a wider range and are harder on pastures than any other stock. He must fence, hedge, or wall it in, and pay taxes upon it. Folds and shelters are to be put up, and grain and hay for the long winters provided, and abundant salt. Nevertheless, distempers and murrains often occasion great mortality. Still the Northern shepherd perseveres, prospers and grows rich. Here one may graze 1,000 sheep without owning a foot of land, or paying any taxes. From Pearl river to the Alabama line there are vast natural pastures, of unsold and unoccupied lands. No stacks or barns are wanted, and the epidemics of colder climates are unknown. I attribute this to our benign climate; to the saline air and saturation of the herbage; more than all to the smoke of the burning pine, and the vapor of tar, which the live stock in the pine woods constantly inhale. I have seen larger and heavier mutton, grain fed, in the North and West, but none equal to ours when put upon the table.

SOCIETY—PUBLIC OPINION.

Our sea-shore population is refined, social and intelligent. Clique-dom and exclusiveness are unkown. Composed of people from every State, and from every nationality of Europe, there is no sectionalism. All well conducted persons, of every race, and color, are welcomed. No inquisition into political opinions, as these are regarded as one's private property. We are Democrats and Republicans, devoted to our country, and breathing the same prayer for its peace, prosperity, progress and perpetuity. Political rows, ruffianism and race exacerbations, are unknown in this section of Mississippi.

LANDS.

Improved lands, with small, plain buildings on them, may be had, throughout the pine district, at from $3.00 to $10.00 per acre. Unimproved at $1.25. Large quantities of public land may yet be entered under the Homestead Act, excellent farming, pasture and timbered tracts, 80 acres for about $8 00, the entire cost—thus supplying the cheapest home in the world, and the healthiest, and the easiest for a poor man to get a start on the road to independence. Many large land-holders will sell lands, at very low prices, on long credits, and take pay in labor. An industrious man, with or without money, can always secure here a good and comfortable home. Throughout the district there are excellent farming lands—lands which the Carolinas, in Virginia, Maryland or New Jersey would bring $10 to $15 per acre, may be had here at government price.

LABOR.

Two-thirds of the working classes in the pine district, including the sea coast, are whites—natives and naturalized citizens. Those from the Eastern States, and from Canada, Sweden, Denmark, England and Ireland, bear exposure to the sun, and stand the climate, in every respect, as well as the

indigenous population, or the emigrants from Southern Europe. The Germans are quite numerous, and are our most thrifty farmers and gardeners. The French immigrants are chiefly merchants, coffee-house keepers, or mechanics. The Spanish and Italians engage in fishing, oystering and navigation. But we find all these races in the various pursuits, and generally industrious, economical and successful. Skilled workmen earn from $3 00 to $6 00 per day; journeymen from $1 50 to $3 00. Ordinary laborers from $1 00 to $1 50. A steady farm hand may always find employment, and board and lodging, at $12 00 to $15 00 per month the year round. Our numerous saw-mills employ many hands and raftsmen and axmen at high wages. The shipyards require many workmen. Many hands are wanted to man the schooners and barges plying to and from New Orleans. Much of the sea-board front is owned by wealthy residents and absentees, who have extensive gardens, orchards and ornamental grounds, and these give profitable employment and comfortable berths to many men and women. Manufactures, it is presumed, will soon spring up here, with the influx of immigration and capital, and this will create a new demand for labor.

LUMBER—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TRADE—PORT OF PASCAGOULA AND SHIP ISLAND HARBOR.

The great industry of this section of the State is its trade in sawed and square Timber, Shingles and Laths; a business commenced only a few years since, suspended and broken up by the war, and conducted since under many drawbacks. What it will be when our mighty forest, covering some fifteen counties, is tapped and traversed by railroads, it would be difficult, from its magnitude, to estimate. What it is now, may be seen from the following statement, which has been kindly made up for me by W. M. Gillespie, Esq., the efficient Deputy Collector for the District of Shieldsborough, at his office at Pascagoula, the principal shipping point on the coast:

STATEMENT OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED AT PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI, FROM JANUARY 1, TO DECEMBER 31, 1876.

No. Vessels Entered, Coastwise	60
Tonage	10,805,21
No. Vessels Cleared, Coastwise,	78
Tonage	13,313,48
Lumber Shipped,	6,908,339 feet.
Shingles Shipped,	1,179,250

To the above statement 25 per cent. should be added for Lumber shipped in vessels under coasting license, not clearing at the Custom House.

No. Vessels Entered, foreign,	108
Tonage	33,193,08
No. Vessels Cleared, foreign,	97
Tonage	33,316,43
Lumber Shipped	13.679,571 feet
Timber "	885,346 "
Shingles "	974,500 "

NOTE.—Square Timber to Europe, Lumber to Europe, South America, Mexico and the West Indies.

Respestfully submitted,

W. M. GILLESPIE.

Some of these vessels load directly alongside the mills; others outside the bar of Pascagoula river by lighters. The largest size timber ships lie in Ship Island Harbor, near by.

Until this enterprise was started by a few of our energetic citizens, about the same time, and in the same spirit that animated the patriotic Wesson

when he put up his pioneer cotton mill, it might be said that Mississippi had no sea-port, and no commerce. Every article consumed by her, from the most necessary to the most superfluous, was the production of a foreign or a distant industry; but the value of our great staple is greater in proportion to population than the average of production in other States. Add to the staple our capacity for lumber supply, and the figures would be amazing.

Nature has given us the most salubrious and charming coast in the world perforated by noble rivers—indented with capacious bays and estuaries—a deep channel running along its whole length, forming a capacious harbor, protected by a chain of islands making an effectual breakwater against the winds and waves. Soundings of these waters are accurately noted on the old French and Spanish charts. As far back as 1836, an accurate survey was made by an engineer under the authority of the State, and by order of the Brandon Bank & Railroad Company. Reconnoisances were made by engineers in the interest of companies chartered by the Legislature of Louisiana. The U. S. Coast Survey has since made a thorough exploration, and it must be conceded that we have a harbor equal to all the requirements of commerce. We pay duties on imports to the amount of millions of dollars annually; and of all our vast exports and imports scarcely a fraction is shipped or received through our own ports! Will posterity believe it? One of the greatest communities on the continent, fertile in lands, in staples and in commercial facilities; an intelligent population; over one hundred miles of coast, and a noble harbor at our door—voluntarily importing all they consume and shipping all they produce, through the ports of other States!

Without any encouragement from the State or National Government—with no railway communication with the interior, paralyzed by the ravages and exactions of war—a few of our citizens have inaugurated a direct trade in timber with Europe, the West Indies, Mexico, and our own Northern cities. They likewise supply much of the lumber used by builders in New Orleans, besides sending millions of feet, sawed to order, up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Had our State been wise, this great harbor would long since have been connected with the interior by rail, and the ships that come for cargoes, would discharge their freight at our own wharves. A great commercial emporium would have grown up, under our own jurisdiction, supplying our planters with foreign and domestic merchandise, and a home market for their cotton.

During the war of 1814, the British fleet, before the invasion of Louisiana, lay securely at anchor in these waters. Ships drawing twenty-three feet lie within a few miles of shore, inside of Ship Island, in three and a half to four fathoms of water! Over the bars of the Mississippi there are generally but fourteen to sixteen feet, and towage to the city, 100 miles, $1 00 per ton. It often costs a ship $1,000 to $2,000 to go up and return, exclusive of levee duties! Disbursing a ship, say of 200 tons, in the port of New Orleans, from the time she crosses the bar, and crosses it again on her return, costs some $5,000! These charges are paid indirectly by the producers. Without knowing it, they foot the bill in the additional value added to the merchandise imported. So secure is Ship Island harbor, and so easy of access, a number of foreign vessels come in without a pilot, guided only by the charts. They often come with invalid crews, whose health is restored while taking in cargo in this port.

Give us the desired rail communication, keep your port charges low, and it will not be longer said that the great Cotton State is without a seaport. This quarter of Mississippi, so long overlooked, would duplicate its population, and contribute largely to the National and State revenues. Our vast domain, now paying no taxes, would become private property. We

would supply the world with lumber and naval stores. We would furnish consumers for the surplus provisions produced in the interior, and send them in return oysters, fish and tropical fruits, and the valuable merchandise discharged through our Custom House.

VILLAGES—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES.

Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Mississippi City, Handsboro, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Scranton, East Pascagoula, are all incorporated and flourishing towns, immediately or near the seashore, very picturesque, handsomely built up, shaded with venerable trees, the dwellings embowered with roses and vines, and combining all the attractions and comforts of seaside resorts—extensive shellroad drives, well-kept hotels and restaurants, yachting, fishing, and refined society. In all these flourishing communities, there are well conducted seminaries of learning, and Catholic and Protestant churches.

The New Orleans & Mobile railroad places these beautiful villages in close proximity with each other, and in direct communication with those two cities, *and in sixty hours in New York!*

MINERAL WATERS.

In so healthy a country, there is but little use for mineral waters for the resident population, but Providence, in its munificence, has placed them within our reach. In Marion, Covington, Wayne and Jackson counties, there are Sulphur Chalybeate Springs, which, at various times, have been much resorted to by strangers. Mineral wells are found at Mississippi City and in the vicinity. But I invite your attention particularly to the celebrated Ocean Springs, immediately on our sea-board. The late eminent Dr. Warren Stone, in a letter dated 1853, pronounced this *the best mineral water in the South.* Many of the most prominent physicians of New Orleans certify to the remarkable cures effected, among their own patients, and under their own observation. Numerous distinguished citizens, clergymen and professors, have given certificates of their own cases, and of desperate cases and radical cures accomplished under their own eyes.

These Springs were first brought to the notice of Dr. Wm. G. Austin, of New Orleans, in 1852, by the Rev. P. P. Bowen, who had resided in the vicinity and had, for several years, witnessed the extraordinary cures effected. Dr. Austin satisfied himself by positive testimony and minute analysis of the springs. He traced the tradition that had given celebrity among the Indians and French. He selected desperate cases from the Infirmary of New Orleans, and from his own private practice, and from the patients of other physicians, and the results were most satisfactory and conclusive. The records of the cures effected would fill a volume. These wonderful fountains are not buried in a morass steaming with poisonous exhalations; they are not on some bleak mountain side where one may drive out dyspepsia, but are sure to catch the ague; not in some small, damp, befogged valley, resembling an inverted cauldron, where a warm bath may be had, but no fresh air; not on some frozen lake in the far north-west, in a low, flat, swampy and desolate region. But the position is at once beautiful and commanding. A rippling bay, dotted with verdant islets, and looming out into the "deep blue sea," "far as the breeze can bear the billows' foam." In the back ground stands the great pine forest of Mississippi—those evergreen Titans that have "braved the battle and the storm" for ages, and now fling their hoary shadows, and distil their balsamic dews over this charming shore. A crystal river, fringed with verdure, winds, like a thread of silver, around the village; and gigantic live oaks, that no elemental strife can shake, gracefully stoop to kiss the sparkling waters. The prospect and the air are exhilarating, and the invalid finds these powerful adjuvants to the elixir of the springs.

The exhaustive analysis made by Dr. Jones, the distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the University of Louisiana, establishes the great value and specific action of these waters in a great variety of diseases.

THE SEA-COAST IN WINTER,

And the pine district generally, are specially adapted for invalids. The weather generally mild, the air balmy and invigorating. We often dine on Christmas day in the open air, the roses in bloom, and every variety of vegetable in full bearing. Our hotels—which are numerous and first-class —are now open the year round, and have special arrangements for winter visitors and for invalids.

HEALTH.

The gallant Ponce de Leon, governor of Porto Rico, met his death on the sands of Florida in 1512, when in search of a miraculous fountain, that once drank of, insured perpetual youth. Had the Indians, who fiercely disputed every inch of ground with the Castilian chivalry, allowed him a peaceful march, he would have found, not the fabled object of his search, but the healthiest climate in the world, in the pine forest of Mississippi. The county of Scott, for example, was organized in 1833. In 1843 when it cast 300 votes, during all that interval only three adults had died.

I certify, that since the organization of this county, in 1833, no letters of administration or executorship have been granted by the Probate Court or applied for, as will appear from the records of this office.

A. EASTLAND,
Clerk Probate, Scott County, Miss.

In Jones county, Isaac Anderson, Esq., the oldest magistrate, informed me that during a residence of 23 years, with a family of ten children, thirteen grand children and fifteen negroes, he had never had a case of fever, and had never employed a physician. His brother has resided there about the same time, has fifteen children, and has never used for any of them a dose of medicine. I called to see the venerable John Evans and wife, in the same neighborhood. They are each over 100 years old, and in 20 years' residence have never been sick. In Marion county, Mr. Nath. M. Collins, a highly respectable citizen, informed me that he had lived there 22 years, and during that period there had been but one case of fever in his family. His wife was the mother of fourteen children, and had never seen but one dose of medicine administered. A few miles further eastward was the resideuce of Stephen H. Wilkins, merchant and farmer. His house is on the edge of a large mill pond. On inquiry if it did not affect the health of his family, he informed me that he had resided there many years, with a numerous household, white and black, and had never paid one cent to a physician. I saw half a dozen rosy children eating unripe peaches and cucumbers. He said he never restrained them, and they bathe in the mill pond until the sun peels the skin from their backs! In miasmatic regions the rosy cheek would fade; the bird-like voices be hushed; the cheerful hearth soon deserted.

The very looks of these people cheer one up. Mr. John L. Dantzler, an intelligent magistrate and planter, residing on Leaf river, Perry county, informed me that he had settled there in 1812, with a family of five persons. He had then ten children, thirteen grandchildren, and some seventy negroes, and during the whole period never had occasion for a physician, and but three deaths—one of old age and two infants. These examples are quoted from my journal, and I could fill pages with similar instances.

You ask me for my own case, and though I dislike to write about myself, I will do so to illustrate the salubrity of these pine woods.

I am a native of Natchez, of delicate organization, subject in early life to severe attacks every year, and my constitution enfeebled by the copious bleedings and mercurial treatment then in fashion.

My own life had been a protracted invalidism. In 1835-6-7, I was in Congress, and during that time had several severe attacks. About the commencement of the famous Mississippi contested election, in the room of the Committee of Foreign Relations, of which I was a member, I was seized with hemorrhage from the lungs, and was carried to my domicil in a fainting condition. The late Professor Sewall, of Washington, was my medical attendant. Neither he nor any of my friends thought I would recover. Dr. Wm. G. Austin, of Virginia—now, and for many years at the head of his profession in New Orleans—having determined on moving to Mississippi, had come to Washington to get letters of introduction from me and other friends. He found me in the condition above described, and remained with me until I was able to travel. Under Providence, I owe my life to his skill and attention. In a letter published by Dr. Austin in 1873, he makes the following reference to my case: "Mr. Claiborne is now living on his Sea Island cotton plantation near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi—a living monument to the health of that region. Many years ago he was my patient. At that time he was a member of Congress. I brought him home from Washington almost in a dying condition. He was a candidate for re-election against the distinguished S. S. Prentiss. I would not let him enter upon the canvass, for I knew he could not survive it. I induced him to give up public speaking and finally public life altogether. Since then, he has lived in the pine woods. He visits New orleans two or three times a year, as he says to consult me, but really, I think, to show what the sea coast of his native State has done for him."

By Dr. Austin's order, I settled in Hancock county, Mississippi, on a salt water bayou, about four miles from the sea, and surrounded by a pine forest and salt marsh.

During this long period I have never had a fever; never have taken an emetic or cathartic; no recurrence of the hemorrhage; eat and drink what I please, and can walk or ride as far in a day as most young men. Up to the breaking out of the war I had on my plantation about one hundred in family, and have never paid one cent for medical services during my residence in the county.

Having said this much about the soil, products, undeveloped resources, and health of the sea-board and pine woods district of Mississippi, I leave it to practical men to strike a balance between health and comfort, pure air, sea breezes, good water, salt bathing, oysters, fish, fruit, the market privileges of our coast, and the profits to be made on the fisheries, on tar, turpentine, lumber, fuel, live stock, beeswax, honey, butter, cheese, hides, peltries, tallow, wool, poultry and the prospect of becoming rich in fever-scourged swamps and pestilential diggings.

With great respect,

J. F. H. CLAIBORNE.

Bay St. Louis, Miss., May 6th, 1876.

PRESS COMMENTS ON GEN. WEST'S ADDRESS.

[From the Philadelphia Press.]

The first of a lengthly series of historical addresses, descriptive of the growth, resources, and development of the several States, was initiated yesterday morning. Mississippi was the subject of the address, and the orator, General A. M. West, of that State. The project of these addresses was devised by the Commission fully a year ago, when requests were sent

to the Governors of the different States and Territories for the appointment of a suitable person by each, to prepare an epitome of local history. The addresses will extend at intervals throughout the Exhibition. Yesterday morning an audience of respectable proportions assembled in Judges' Hall and were treated to an interesting resume of the political, industrial and geographical condition, past and present, of Mississippi, special reference being made to the State staple, cotton, of which 700,000 bales are now produced annually.

[From the Philadelphia Times.]

The first of a series of lectures to be delivered during the Exhibition, showing the progress in the last hundred years, and the present resources of the various States and Territories, was delivered yesterday in the Judges' Hall by Gen. A. M. West, of Mississippi, his subject being that State. Hon. Elwood Evans, Commissioner from Washington Territory, presided, and there was a fair attendance. The discourse had been carefully prepared, and was exhaustive and interesting.

After the delivery of the address a resolution was offered by one of the audience, and unanimously adopted, approving the sentiments expressed, and returning their thanks to Gen. West, and requesting of him a copy for publication in the archives of the Centennial Commission.